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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria Said Interested in Regional Economic Talks

TA1606103794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 94 p A4

["Exclusive" report by Europe correspondent Nitzan Horowitz]

[Text] Madrid—Representatives of the EU and Japan, who yesterday opened the multilateral conference on economic affairs in Rabat, reported about contacts with Syria regarding proposals for projects initiated in the multilateral working group. Syria, which boycotts the multilateral talks, has evinced interest in the various proposals being discussed by experts in workshops and in regional meetings.

A senior Israeli source said that Syria's interest in the economic aspect of the multilateral talks is very great. He said the Syrians have evinced great interest in the proceedings of the work groups and are interested in being updated on this issue. The source assessed that "the economic sphere could be Syria's entrance gate into the multilateral process."

All the participants in the Rabat conference expressed the hope that Syria and Lebanon will join the economic work group. Some even said there is a feeling that a development in that direction may take place soon. It is assessed that Syria has reached the conclusion that the economic forum is the most practical forum in the multilateral process and that it could lead to rather tempting infrastructure and development projects. Consequently, as the Israeli source said, "the Syrians do not want to miss the train."

Economic sources claim that Syria is very well aware of the fact that the projects being discussed in the conference have far-reaching economic significance and harbor great potential for large-scale international financing and investments which Syria stands no chance of obtaining otherwise.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 16 June carries a recorded interview with Professor Ya'aqov Frenkel, the Bank of Israel Governor who co-heads the Israeli delegation to Rabat, in which Frenkel is asked about the Syrian interest in the proceedings. Frenkel is recorded as saying: "Today we have heard some reports by some delegations indicating that indeed from their impression of their bilateral dealings with the Syrians they gained the impression that indeed there might be some growing interest and a somewhat more positive attitude toward the committee. But I would emphasize very strongly that this was not part of any formal report, nor is there hard evidence. One talks about nuances and feelings, and that's basically where we are."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 16 June carries an interview with Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry and the other co-head of the Israeli delegation to Rabat, in which, referring to the same issue, Savir is recorded as saying: "Based on various reports by the EU and Japan, it looks as though Syria is evincing some interest in this conference. Visits were paid to Syria by various elements, especially the EC, which has organized this conference. Syria is showing interest in the regional economic cooperation talks, which is perhaps the most significant work group in the multilateral talks. At this point, however, Syria has made no commitment to join the talks; this is reserved for a later stage."

[Asked about progress on the Israeli-Syrian track, Savir says: "It is hard for me to say, because it is difficult to guess exactly what stands behind this Syrian curiosity. Perhaps they believe that progress will be achieved in their bilateral talks with us, a thing they consider as a condition for joining the multilateral talks. It is also possible that there is something else here, namely, the more projects are being planned between us and the Arab countries the more difficult it becomes for any country to be left out of the picture." Savir adds: "I assume Syria realizes that joining this framework will not contribute to the peace process only, but to the Syrian economy as well."]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 10 Jun

NC1506163094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 10 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islam issues.

Contents:

1. Writer Berates Government Approach to Dialogue, Sets Terms
2. Writer Sees Muslim Brotherhood History as Commendable
3. Appeal To Mubarak to Use Dialogue With Islamists
4. Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Denies Disagreement With Labor Party
5. Report Says Security Forces 'Liquidated' Islamists
6. Lawyers Association Determined To Uncover Lawyer's Killers

WRITER BERATES GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO DIALOGUE, SETS TERMS

In his 3,500-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn criticizes the government's approach to the proposed national dialogue which, he believes, would be useless if it were not an instrument of change and exhaustive reform. Stating that "national dialogue must start with political reform, or the right to change the ruler," he says that all signs indicate that the government wants one thing but the people want another. "We want it to be a triumph for the approach of

democratic change, while they want it to be a tyrannical, terrorist setback that further establishes the present regime, with all its incompetence and corruption," he says.

Husayn notes that nothing in the public policy or the ruling approach has changed since the call for dialogue was made. "The most fateful laws are still being passed in a hurry without serious discussion," he says, pointing out that instead of recognizing the role of the opposition, the government has tightened the noose around it by taking its free writers to military courts and harassing the Muslim Brothers. He affirms, however, that "we will not boycott the dialogue, unless it is proven beyond a doubt and before all that they are determined to conspire and hatch evil plots."

Registering his party's objection to the formation of the committee in charge of preparing the national dialogue, Husayn sums up the terms of "collective national powers and parties."

He emphasizes the need for a balanced representation of people from various intellectual inclinations in the proposed general congress for the national dialogue. For this purpose he suggests that the total number of representatives be limited to "200 members for example" to ensure a balanced exchange of views. He stresses that National Democratic Party members should not be favored over other parties, that representatives of major parties should be increased, that no major trade or professional union should be excluded, that universities should be represented, and that the Islamic current should be represented compatibly with its intellectual and political weight in the society.

Moving on to the agenda of the national dialogue, he sums up the three self-evident principles by the following: To guarantee man's basic right to protect his body, dignity, honor, and money; to work out ways to put an end to election rigging; and to agree on collective objection to the use of armed force in political conflicts, or what he terms "the so-called civilian terrorism."

"The general congress must openly announce from the first moment that it will not culminate in binding resolutions, apart from the three self-evident principles. If you wish to expand the scope of discussion and exchange of views, it is alright with us, so long as the world will follow what is going on via the central mass media," Husayn concludes.

APPEAL TO MUBARAK TO USE DIALOGUE WITH ISLAMISTS

In the 500-word "Quiet Message to President Mubarak" on page 9, Muhammad Isma'il says to Mubarak that the evil retinue around him has put an invincible wall between him and the people, as is evident from the wedge driven between the president and Islamists in general.

"Some have harbored evil intentions toward Islam and Muslims; they were brought up and weaned on disbelief and infidelity. An opportunity was offered to them on a silver platter to release their suppressed poisons in the face of the Islamic revival, which we unfortunately failed to exploit. They used the country's ordeal to win your favor with their false slogans and insincere words," he writes.

"Whoever told you, Mr. President, that Islamists have ambition to rule or to take your chair is a liar and an unethical hypocrite," he states.

Explaining that emergency laws, arrests on suspicion, and scaring and framing the people have not succeeded in stopping terrorism, he pleads with the president "to try, even for once, the approach of dialogue and good counselling; use love rather than hatred, tolerance rather than spite, and sincerity rather than ill will." He proposes to the president to give scholars the chance to talk to Islamists first in jail and then outside of jail, and to give orders to stop torturing prisoners and improve their living conditions. He affirms that accepting dialogue or mediation with our sons will strengthen rather than weaken the government.

WRITER SEES MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD HISTORY AS COMMENDABLE

A 400-word article by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din on page 7 comments on "the security and media clampdown on the Muslim Brotherhood" and the repeated use of the term "secret organization" to refer to the organization.

Referring to a report in the 3 June issue of the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, filed as NC1106202194 and add, he says that what the magazine terms secret documents of the Muslim Brotherhood were based on "a confidential memorandum written by Brigadier General M.R. of the State Security, hoping to present the Muslim Brothers as an easy prey to the regime to exterminate them."

'Izz-al-Din emphasizes that even if the information revealed in the magazine report was true, the Muslim Brothers' quest to impose themselves on the political map and their wish to avoid provoking the security apparatus could not be described as a secret action or as terrorism.

"AL-MUSAWWAR's security report has unmasked some positive aspects in the secret group that are lacking in the public ruling party and other overt political powers. Among these is the fact that the elections of the secret organization are being done by free and secret balloting and that everyone will have an equal opportunity to run for the leading positions," 'Izz-al-Din says.

The writer adds that it is alright to uncover more hidden facts about that secret organization, because "what the government sees as criticism we see as praise and what it sees as a vice we see as a virtue."

He concludes: "If the government keeps up its current course, the Muslim Brothers will gain more prominence and popular support. They will even walk the streets and call: This is the secret organization; who wants to join?"

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SPOKESMAN DENIES DISAGREEMENT WITH LABOR PARTY

An unattributed 120-word report on page 7 says that Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, official spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood, denied a report published in the "last" issue of the AL-'ARABI newspaper, which quoted him as saying that "the Labor Party does not represent the Muslim Brotherhood and we disagree with Ibrahim Shukri."

Al-Hudaybi explains that the newspaper distorted his words and that he did not say that there was a disagreement between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Labor Party. He affirmed that what he said was: "With all due respect to Ibrahim Shukri and the Labor Party leaders, the party—as stated by its leader Ibrahim Shukri—does not represent the Muslim Brotherhood on the committee in charge of preparing for national dialogue."

REPORT SAYS SECURITY FORCES 'LIQUIDATED' ISLAMISTS

A 120-word report by 'Adil al-Bahnasawi on pages 1 and 7 says that security forces used armored cars to bulldoze the house in which four members of the Islamic Group were hiding in Tama, when these forces failed to arrest them. The four were "liquidated" after the house was bulldozed completely.

The report adds that the security forces, in a separate incident, took four Islamists from jails in Asyut and three students in a police car to a cemetery in Tahta, where they were tied-up and shot dead.

LAWYERS ASSOCIATION DETERMINED TO UNCOVER LAWYER'S KILLERS

An 800-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi and Khalid Yunus on pages 1 and 7 cites Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, secretary general of the Lawyers Association, as he affirms at a press conference that the association's crisis is "purely professional" and that the association was only acting upon its established principle to protest the violation of the rights of one of its members to live. In the report, al-Banna affirms that the association will keep up its efforts until the names of the officers who were responsible for the death of Lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani are publicized.

"Unless the government takes the necessary legal measures, we will lodge a complaint with the UN Human Rights Commission to launch an investigation," al-Banna said. He added that an official in the American Middle East Watch Human Rights Organization will meet with the Association members to discuss the case. Al-Banna stressed that the government cannot dissolve the association's council and that a court ruling in al-Sadat's time emphasized that it is unconstitutional to dissolve the council.

Seminar Views Islamic Groups' Differences, Accord

NC1006150894 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 7

[Report by Salah Sabir]

[Text] The Research Center for International and Political Development has organized a seminar on the points of agreement and difference between three major currents within the Islamic movement. These currents are the Muslim Brotherhood, the radical Islamic groups (al-Jihad current), and al-Azhar.

The differences between these three currents were pinpointed regarding their stands on the Copts, the class distinctions between the leaders and cadres in these three currents, the state and social institutions, relations with the outside world, and the organizational peculiarities of each of these currents.

Regarding the differences, some of those who took part in the discussions were of the opinion that there are no differences between the Muslim Brotherhood and other extremist Muslim currents and that what the Muslim Brotherhood is currently claiming—that it rejects violence and accepts pluralism and democracy—is a tactical stand. This stand is based on the principle of dissimulation [al-taqiyah] which they adopted from the Shiite doctrine. Those who expressed this viewpoint were Dr. Majdi 'Allam, secretary of the National Democratic Party's youth branch in al-Jizah, and Major General Fu'ad 'Allam, who noted that the idea of accusing society of being blasphemous is being copied from what the Brotherhood's youth wing did in 1946. Shaykh al-Banna did not reject it, although he did point out that it is not in their interest to revive these ideas at this point in time, before the Muslim Brotherhood has taken control of the state, and he said that they should not provoke conflicts with the state while they are weak. These same ideas were revived by Sayyid Qutub during the early sixties. He leaked them from prison and they reached the Guidance Bureau. Qutub's stand was the same as that of the former imam. Therefore, there are no differences among the various groups, nor between them and the Muslim Brotherhood. The apparent differences are personal ones over leadership, or because one group indulges in infighting with another, or for reasons dealing with the weakness or strength of some group or the availability or absence of funding for it.

Others believe that a distinction should be made between two things: The political approach and the actual behavior of the Islamic groups, with all their differences. Regarding the Brotherhood's political approach, we find that much of it is blasphemous. As for their current behavior, we find that they have moved

away from violence. The Brotherhood and al-Azhar agree with the other groups with respect to their political lines, but differences remain in their actual behavior. Those holding this opinion were Dr. Jihad 'Awdah, head of the Research Center for International and Political Development; Dr. 'Ali Fahmi; and Alain Rousion [last two names as transliterated], head of the Sidage Center.

On the other hand, the points of agreement between the Islamic movement's three currents were spotlighted, such as their stand on implementing the Islamic shari'ah, the rule of non-Muslims, assessing the West's political approach and economic dealings, and on general social and cultural factors. The three currents agree on implementing the shari'ah, setting up an Islamic caliphate, disdaining Muslim rule over non-Muslims, and being hostile to the West (by using hostile slogans), and on having economic dealings with the West as long as it is in the interest of the Muslims. The seminar concluded by proposing many ideas. The most important of these were:

—Finding a link between the growth of the Islamic movements in the Islamic world and funding coming from the oil-producing countries. This explains the reason why there is a similarity between the Islamic groups' thinking and the Pakistani and Wahabi ideas.

—By dealing with religious violence solely through oppression without looking into the social and economic issues, the state encourages increased religious extremism. Ambassador Tahsin Bashir supported this idea.

—Al-Azhar does not disagree with the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic groups on the level of jurisprudence, only on the mechanism for relations with others.

—The concept of al-shari'ah is vague and general. There is no such thing as al-shari'ah, but there is jurisprudence. Whoever talks about al-shari'ah is talking about a defined and strict regime that incorporates some ideas of jurisprudence and ignores others. It uses the former to govern with. This leads to the establishment of a theocracy which, according to jurisprudence itself, is contrary to true Islam. This notion was confirmed by Dr. 'Ali Fahmi.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said To Call For Settling Refugees in Lebanon

NC1506121594 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Tunis, AL-ANWAR—Arab diplomatic sources close to the Palestinian-U.S. meetings—Yasir 'Arafat's meetings with Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, last month and with U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia John McCarthy the day before yesterday—disclosed that 'Arafat raised several issues with Pelletreau and again with Ambassador McCarthy.

Those issues include the slowdown in the receipt of funds necessary to run the self-rule mechanism and the fate of the Palestinian residents in Lebanon and Syria, since they are not allowed to return under the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which closes the door to the return of the refugees from 1948. Most Palestinians residing in Syria and Lebanon are refugees from 1948.

According to close diplomatic sources, 'Arafat expressed a wish for the Palestinians in Lebanon to be granted citizenship and permanent resettlement there. 'Arafat said to Pelletreau: Do you have any other option? The U.S. official was silent before saying: "It is a proposal worthy of consideration."

'Secret' Accord Allows 'Arafat To Visit Jerusalem

NC1606081794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] According to Palestinian sources, a secret agreement has been made allowing Palestinian National Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit Jerusalem and pray at al-Aqsa Mosque after he enters the self-rule areas, reportedly at the end of next week.

Notwithstanding the Israeli media campaign against president 'Arafat's announcements during the past few weeks that he will definitely visit Jerusalem, the sources—who are closely watching the developments of the PLO-Israeli relationship—say that during their recent meeting in Cairo 'Arafat and Rabin signed a secret agreement by which Israel will allow the Palestinian president to visit Jerusalem and pray at al-Aqsa Mosque one week after he arrives.

'Arafat Meets With Libyan Foreign Secretary

LD1506183494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] On 14 June brother President Yasir 'Arafat received the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs of the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah. President 'Arafat received at the meeting a message from his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the al-Fatih revolution.

Sha'th Meets With Gazan Police, Security Officials

JN1506195494 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of the international portfolio, held a series of meetings at the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority in the city of Gaza last night. He met with the commanders of the Palestinian police, as well as the head of the Palestinian security forces in the Strip to acquaint himself with

problems facing the Palestinian security force since its deployment in the self-rule area.

Dr. Sha'th had arrived in Gaza last night. He told Journalists that he was carrying an amount of money to pay the salaries of the employees of the Palestinian Authority's self-rule and policemen.

He added he would prepare for the arrival of brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in the Palestinian self-rule area.

Police Officer Accidentally Killed by Colleague

NC1506165594 Paris AFP in English 1540 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 15 (AFP)—A Palestinian police officer shot dead near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the autonomous Gaza Strip was killed accidentally by a colleague, a senior police officer told AFP Wednesday.

Palestinian sources said Monday the policeman had been killed by unidentified gunmen as he patrolled close to Netzarim.

"From the inquiry we carried out, it appears that Khalil Abu-Hamzah, 23, was killed immediately by a bullet fired accidentally by one of his colleagues," the police chief said.

On Tuesday the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad accused Israeli settlers of having killed the officer.

It is the first accidental shooting of a police officer by his colleagues since Israeli troops redeployed in the Gaza Strip to hand over to the Palestinian police, following the Israeli-PLO self-rule accord signed on May 4.

Two police officers died in a car accident shortly after they arrived on the Gaza Strip on May 18.

National Authority Member on Security, Collaborators

JN1506133994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Palestinian National Authority, by 'Umar Zaydani; place and date not given; from the "With The Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] It has been reported recently that there is tension between the judicial apparatus, led by you, and the Palestinian police, or police officers?

[Abu-Middayn] I really do not know what the source of this information could be. In fact, cooperation between us is at its utmost. We hold meetings with the brothers in the security forces every night, particularly with brother Nasr Yusuf and the rest of the security officials. In fact, there is full and comprehensive cooperation because we are approaching a stage in which law should prevail and the Palestinians must be well protected.

[Zaydani] There are reports that Tunis and 'Arafat are not satisfied with Ziyad al-Atrash and Yusuf Nasr and that they will be replaced?

[Abu-Middayn] I do not know how consultations are understood as differences. This happens throughout the world. Some people might have interpretations that are different from others' interpretations. There is full compliance with the instructions President 'Arafat gave to the army, which is estimated at approximately 3,500-4,000 individuals. There are no major differences. Those who came here are soldiers who carry out the full orders of the leadership. I am not aware of major differences, but people would term consultations as differences. This is new logic and a new understanding of matters. Thousands of kilometers separate us from the leadership, therefore there should be consultations, especially since Israel is monitoring telephones and faxes. Therefore, the leadership summons all its commanders, or most of the decisionmakers, every 30 days. This is quite natural.

[Zaydani] Does the departure of Ziyad al-Atrash and Yusuf Nasr for Tunis fall within these consultation?

[Abu-Middayn] I believe so. Even if there are different interpretations on the ground, President 'Arafat wants to be in the picture 24 hours a day. So, things cannot always be discussed over the telephone or in written instructions. Therefore, it is no more than consultation.

[Zaydani] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, your answers show that there are differences.

[Abu-Middayn] There are different interpretations, not differences. The interpretation of the liaison committee was different from that of the brothers in Tunis regarding the issue of prisoners and releasing them in Jericho, as well as other things. Such things should be solved directly between the president and his soldiers. I believe there is nothing more than this. All issues are minor things, and I hope they will always remain so.

[Zaydani] We heard that Yasir 'Arafat is mad at Ziyad al-Atrash concerning the transfer of prisoners to Jericho?

[Abu-Middayn] It is not anger. 'Arafat had another opinion. We do not want Jericho to turn into another Marj-al-Zuhur. This is the main thing. Israel wants to implicate us in this issue by force. These are not mistakes committed by Ziyad al-Atrash or others. There are things in the agreements that are still unclear. We are assessing these issues and trying to explain them together with the Israeli side each day and each hour. We will reach solution to these issues, God willing.

[Zaydani] What is the task of 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya who arrived in Gaza a few days ago?

[Abu-Middayn] 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya participated in the Cairo talks and he, more than others, is well versed in the security agreement in particular. Brother al-Yahya

arrived to translate this agreement on the ground with the right formula. Not everything written on paper was clear. Therefore, brother 'Abd-al-Razzaq al- Yahya understands the spirit of the agreement more than anybody else. This the task for which he came to Gaza. It is an important and delicate task.

[Zaydani] The last question, Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, deals with those who collaborated with the [Israeli] authorities. In your capacity as the official in charge of the judicial apparatus in the self-rule areas, are there any instructions to the Palestinian police regarding those people?

[Abu-Middayn] Regarding this issue, those who continue to collaborate will find no mercy on our part. There are very clear orders to arrest and interrogate any person suspected of collaborating. We will not be lenient in this regard and it will not be an issue for bargaining with the Israelis, as Mr. Rabin said: If they pursue the collaborators we will delay the prisoners. You cannot compare an honest fighter with a collaborator. Those who were collaborators is a different issue, but those who continued their collaboration will be arrested and stand trial. There is no lenience in this regard. Israel recently activated some cells that it recruited in the past. This is the nature of Israel. It has espionage activities in America and Pollard was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment in America. We will not allow this. We have military and economic institutions, as well as other institutions. We will not be lenient toward their security in any way. Therefore, we say to the Israelis: Keep your hands off those collaborators. They are your victims. We cannot be lenient toward this issue and toward those who continue their collaboration. If they caused heavy damages or the death of a Palestinian they will receive severe punishment, including a death sentence. This should be understood by the Israeli side. We will not be blackmailed on this issue and we will not succumb to Rabin's instructions. Rabin acts with the brain of a general, a bone breaker. He should stop this and know that this is a peace process. He should enjoy good performance and good intention.

[Zaydani] Will you pardon those who collaborated with the authorities in the past and stopped it now?

[Abu-Middayn] We are thinking seriously of those who stopped collaboration and even those who were killed. We will rehabilitate the children and sons of those who were killed. There is a plan to absorb the families of those killed into the society again. We consider them victims. Therefore, it is easy to resolve the issue of those who stopped their collaboration. However, we cannot be lenient toward those who continue their collaboration. We ask the ones who collaborated with the authorities in the past to report to the security centers and we will give them guarantees, provided that they stop any collaboration with the Israeli intelligence organ.

[Zaydani] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Palestinian Authority, thank you very much.

[Abu-Middayn] Thank you.

Bethlehem Mayor Interviewed on Self-Rule

NC1606081194 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Interview with Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor and member of the Palestinian National Authority, in Bethlehem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [al-Jundi] As a member of the Palestinian National Authority, can you tell us about the current situation, particularly in the fields of economics and services in the self-rule areas? Can you brief us on the efforts currently being made in preparation for starting the work of the Palestinian National Authority?

[Frayj] In fact, the economic situation in Jericho, Gaza, and the occupied West bank is very bad. The economic structure is largely crippled. Unemployment is high and exceeds 40 percent. The volume of monetary liquidity is limited. Despite this, we are making the necessary preparations to establish Palestinian Authority and offer the necessary services to all sons of our people. The people are looking forward eagerly to brother president 'Arafat's arrival in Palestine. As members of the Palestinian National Authority we will take the oath of loyalty to Palestine and to do our national duty.

[Al-Jundi] What is the proposed date for taking the oath and for president 'Arafat's arrival in the self-rule area?

[Frayj] We expect president 'Arafat to arrive before the end of June. We are awaiting his arrival impatiently. Naturally, after his arrival the oath of loyalty will be taken.

[Al-Jundi] Several statements were made in Israel recently on the issues of Jerusalem and the possibility of president 'Arafat visiting East Jerusalem. Obviously, there is Israeli opposition to this visit.

[Frayj] Israel consistently declares on all the media that it ensures freedom of worship and of visiting the holy places for prayer. This applies to Jerusalem and to the Christian and Islamic holy places there. Brother president Yasir 'Arafat has a right to say prayer in al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and to visit Christian holy places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Israel declares that it ensures freedom of worship, so this should apply to all believers in the three holy religions. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is a Palestinian Arab and a Muslim believer.

[Al-Jundi] Regarding the Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem, they will continue their activities in the coming phase. However, the Palestinian Authority clearly intends to establish others in Jerusalem operating in coordination with the Palestinian Authority in the self-rule areas. Can you brief us on the situation?

[Frayj] The Palestinian Arab establishments operating in occupied Arab Jerusalem will continue their duties and offer services normally. Israel has warned against setting up political establishments in East Jerusalem. The Arab establishments in Jerusalem deal with services and studies and draw up plans to serve the citizens.

[Al-Jundi] Will the establishments in Jerusalem be annexed to the Palestinian National Authority?

[Frayj] I believe that these establishments should continue their work. When we assume our duties as Palestinian National Authority contacts will continue between us and the Palestinian establishments wherever they may be, inside or outside the West bank.

[Al-Jundi] After the meeting held in Paris recently by the international committee that is coordinating aid to the Palestinians, approximately $42 million will be granted to the Palestinian National Authority to begin its work. Do you believe this sum is sufficient for a start, or have you received specific promises for additional funds?

[Frayj] First, we thank all countries that offered aid, particularly Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait. The $42 million has been earmarked to be paid as salaries and costs for police and employees in Gaza and Jericho, who number over 12,000. Another meeting will be held in July to reconsider the aid. We hope that this meeting will result in funding of more than $100 million. We are in dire need of financial support to begin our work at the Palestinian National Authority.

[Al-Jundi] Has the Palestinian National Authority specified the sums needed in the coming phase within the framework of an overall plan for reconstruction and development in Gaza and Jericho?

[Frayj] We have plans and assessments that we submitted to the World Bank, the European Common Market, Japan, and other donor nations. We need considerable financial support to establish an effective National Authority and create jobs for the unemployed and improve medical, educational, and municipal services.

[Al-Jundi] We thank you and welcome you over the waves of the Voice of the Arabs Radio.

[Frayj] Thank you.

Hamas Official Denies Saudis Finance Movement

JN1506191494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in "the occupied territories"]

[Excerpt] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official in Gaza, has stated that Israeli officials' statements that the Hamas movement receives funds from Saudi Arabia are groundless slander to bring pressure to bear on Saudi Arabia. In reply to a question by Radio Monte Carlo, al-Zahhar said that Saudi Arabia, as a government, has not offered any financial assistance to the Hamas Movement. Al-Zahhar said that Saudi Arabia is committed to the Arab stand of supporting the PLO.

Al-Zahhar explained that Hamas receives donations from private persons as Zakat [alms tax] funds, which are collected from Muslims and offered to the mujahidin in all parts of the world. These also include donations to the poor, and to the families of martyrs and detainees. He said that these donations are received from many countries, not just from Saudi Arabia and are not government funds. [passage omitted]

'Asfur Expelled From Palestinian People's Party

TA1606112394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 94 p A4

[Report by Gaza correspondent 'Amira Hess]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hasan 'Asfur, a leader of the Palestinian People's Party (formerly the Communist Party) and a senior participant in the negotiations for the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement, was expelled from the party's ranks in a special session of the central committee held in the West Bank earlier this week. According to party members, the decision came "due to 'Asfur's role in the negotiations that led to the Cairo agreement on 4 May, an agreement repudiated by the party."

'Asfur's membership in the central committee had been frozen in the past few months due to his participation in the Cairo talks. Upon returning to the Gaza Strip after a 26-year absence, 'Asfur, a resident of 'Abasan, was appointed as supervisor of the civilian and military talks.

The communique issued by the central committee reiterates the party's opposition to take part in the self-government. Following the signing of the Cairo agreement, senior party members in the Gaza Strip had been pushing to join the Palestinian Authority institutions "in order to promote democratization," although "this runs counter to the Palestinian People's Party's official line, whereby we should not participate in any official institution of the self-rule authority." [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

Ministers Agree To Maintain Oil Production Ceiling

AU1506181294 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Vienna, June 15 (AFP)—OPEC oil ministers agreed Wednesday [15 June] to maintain the organization's production ceiling unchanged at 24.52 million barrels a day (MBD), Libya's oil minister 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri said.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said the organization did not plan any more meetings before next November 16.

The ministers are slated to continue talks Thursday morning on choice of a new secretary-general.

On another point, Subroto said the ministers had decided to keep OPEC headquarters in Vienna, despite having received proposals from the city of Geneva, Switzerland, to house the organization's secretariat.

Subroto said that OPEC members had respected their quotas in May to a "satisfactory" extent, and that prouction for the month averaged 24.922 million barrels.

Iranian Oil Minister on OPEC Price Decision

LD1606102594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Following the decision by OPEC oil ministers to maintain OPEC's output at the current level for the rest of the current Christian year, the price of oil rose on international markets. Our correspondent in Bonn interviewed Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh on the outcome of the current OPEC session and its effect on international oil markets, to which we draw your attention

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Aqazadeh, please tell us the outcome of the OPEC conference.

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Of course, we only managed to reach a final decision on one of the issues on the session's agenda, and it was the most important item on the agenda. It was determining the production ceiling for the next six months.

The announcement of the decision that OPEC will not raise its current output for the next six months was very important for the market, particularly since OPEC also announced that its next session was cancelled. It is very important for consumers to be sure that OPEC does not intend to raise its output for the rest of the year, considering the fact that it is predicted that there is demand for OPEC's oil stocks of about 26.5 million barrels for the fourth quarter of the current Christian year. Therefore, the decision made yesterday was important and had an immediate effect on the market.

[Correspondent] We heard that the price of Brent oil and U.S. oil has gone up. What do you know about that?

[Aqazadeh] Yes, that is right. From the start of the session, the positive attitude of the OPEC members strengthened the market. We even heard that U.S. oil had risen to $20. North Sea oil will also show a reaction today; it rose to $17 last night. [end recording]

Algeria

Prosecutor Demands Death Sentence for GIA Member

LD1506134994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The trial of Layada Abdelhak [member of the Armed Islamic Group—GIA] began at Algiers special court today. The trial was due to start yesterday but had to be postponed until today at the request of the defense lawyers to enable them to examine the bill of indictment. The request was granted by the presiding judge who gave the defense 24 hours to examine the file. Over to Bachir Hedibel who attended the opening of the trial:

[Hedibel] The prosecutor general has just required the maximum sentence, namely the death penalty, for the defendant Layada Abdelhak who is appearing before the Algiers special judicial court. The trial of Layada Abdelhak began this morning after it was postponed for 24 hours at the request of his four lawyers. The presiding judge opened the session by reading the bill of indictment. The main charges brought against the defendant include harming the integrity of the national territory and the security of the state with a view to overthrowing the regime, leading armed groups, carrying out acts of sabotage against public interests, stealing weapons and ammunition, using violence, and committing premeditated murders and aggravated thefts.

The bill of indictment includes 21 crimes. The defendant has confessed to all the crimes, according to the bill of indictment. He also knew about the other crimes committed at the time he belonged to the Armed [Islamic] Group and before he went to Morocco on 23 September 1993. He denied all this before the court today repeating every time that he was only the personal driver of Moh Leveilley [alias for Mohamed Allal, GIA member killed in clash with security forces in September 1992 in Tamezguida] and that he never took part in any assassination operation against members of the national security forces. He added that if operations were carried out when he was the driver, he had no prior knowledge of these operations. He further said that his orders were to drive the armed groups in his capacity as a driver.

The defense lawyers concentrated on the bill of indictment which they regarded as being to the advantage of their client since there was no mention of Layada being commander [emir] of the group. Using this line of defense, the lawyers asked for a lighter sentence, especially as Layada did not deny his affiliation to the group.

The trial is continuing at this very moment and given the long list of charges brought against the defendant and the numerous cases and names mentioned during the session, we will limit ourselves to this for the time being and promise our listeners further details in later reports.

FIS Leader's Prison Message to Zeroual Published

PM1506112694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish: "In Message From His Prison to Zeroual, Belhadj Says: Salvation Front Willing To Engage in Dialogue Openly, Not Behind Scenes"]

[Excerpt] Paris—Cheikh Ali Belhadj has denied that the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] pledged to stop the violence following the release of its leadership members Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham. He stressed that he told Algerian President Liamine Zeroual when Zeroual was defense minister that what is happening is not terrorism, but the people's right to fight the usurpers of power in accordance with the Shari'ah and the law. This came in a message Belhadj sent to President Zeroual from prison on 7 April, which was distributed yesterday evening by the FIS Executive Committee abroad.

In the message Belhadj replies to a recent statement by the presidency, which says that FIS leaders pledged to stop violence and on that basis Djeddi and Boukhamkham were released, but they have not fulfilled their pledge.

In his statement Belhadj criticized the presidency's statement, describing it as "a lie and a slander." He said: "That false statement weakens the president's chances of solving the political problem, thus complicating, rather than solving it. What makes things even worse is that there have been several observations since his appointment as president which deserve to be announced. They include the duality in the rhetoric and the positions, and the hesitation, as though the real field solution is the security solution."

Belhadj attributes the duality in the regime's rhetoric to three points:

1. The predominance and influence of the clique of evil.
2. Fear of the influence of the ideological minorities.
3. Enjoyment of power, on the basis that the president's seat changes the mentality of those who sit there.

Belhadj urged President Zeroual to allow the FIS to reply to the presidency's statement through television and radio. He added: "We said that we are willing to discuss the problem afflicting Algeria not behind the scenes, but openly on television."

The message reflects the impasse the political dialogue has reached in Algeria. The delay in distributing the message reflects the strict control imposed on imprisoned FIS leaders and the difficulty of contacting them. [passage omitted]

Alleged FIS-U.S. 'Secret' Coalition Plan

PM1606084894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jun 94 p4

[Unattributed report: "Algerian-U.S.-French Contacts To Find Coalition Formula Including Salvation Front"]

[Text] Algiers—AL-HAYAH has learned that contacts at the highest level are under way between the Algerian authorities, the Islamists, the Americans, and the French to find a coalition formula acceptable to the various parties before the end of summer.

Western diplomatic sources have told AL-HAYAH that the Americans believe that the "lost time" was not in the interests of the ruling authorities in Algeria and that a solution could only be found through dialogue and national reconciliation.

Observers expect surprises in the Army if the dialogue fails or if the Algerian authorities do not urgently seek a solution within the next three months. They believe that the French, after President Bill Clinton's visit to Paris, are now convinced of the need to help in paving the way for a solution "that would be acceptable to the Islamists and that would be seen by Washington as an alternative to what happened in Iran."

Sources close to the leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] say that it is not unlikely "that a secret agreement has been reached between some FIS leaderships and the U.S. Administration on a concept for the transitional period, or what the Americans call a national coalition government."

The sources speak of "U.S. guarantees given to these leaderships of a shift from military rule to civilian rule without bloodshed, with the U.S. interests in Algeria safeguarded."

In addition to that agreement, some European states and the United States have been holding intensive contacts with Hocine Ait-Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, who has visited Washington and discussed with the U.S. Administration issues of human rights, revival of democracy in Algeria, and how the three major forces could contribute to that along with some independent forces.

Meanwhile, Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN], wrote the editorial of the first edition of YOUMIYAT EL HEWAR ["dialogue diary"] saying that "YOUMIYAT EL HEWAR is issued at this particular time under the pressure of political need." He reaffirmed the FLN's insistence on dialogue as the solution to the crisis.

According to unconfirmed reports, some patriotic figures have recently submitted a proposal to President Liamine Zeroual calling for the release of the FIS leaders on the occasion of the 32d anniversary of national independence which falls on 5 July.

Observers believe that the only losers from the "coalition formula" and the participation of the three fronts [FLN, FIS, and the Socialist Forces Front] would be the horses France has been backing since the suspension of the election process to this day, thinking that they would be the alternative to the FLN and FIS. These horses are the secular group and the Francophiles led by Saeed Saadi.

Reliable sources have told AL-HAYAH that the investigations regarding the Israeli arms found in the possession of Saadi's supporters did not rule out the possibility of a link between him and some of the armed groups which recently assassinated figures loyal to the Islamic Groups and the Islamic trend, especially the lawyers.

In another development, sources close to the Algerian Interior Ministry say that a committee has been formed to draft "legislation" under which the publication of any reports on terrorism would be prohibited and papers and journalists doing so would be prosecuted.

AL-HAYAH has learned that at dawn yesterday the "special rapid deployment forces" stormed the home of Algerian writer Khalid Omar Kekah, editor of the weekly EL CHOROUK EL ARABI ["Arab Dawn"], the biggest publication in Algeria with a circulation of 350,000, which also has a twin weekly publication called EL CHOROUK EL THAKAFI ["Cultural Dawn"].

Egypt

Musa Leaves for Malta on Three-Day Visit

NC1506113994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Tunis this morning for Malta on a three-day official visit after participating in the African summit meetings. In a predeparture statement, he said that President Mubarak's participation in the African summit and his inaugural speech played an extremely important role in advancing efforts toward resolving African problems. These efforts were in completion of Egypt's tasks during its chairmanship of the OAU. He said that Egypt presented proposals and held consultations that were welcomed and appreciated by all delegations. They contributed significantly towards resolving problems discussed during the summit, particularly the issues of development and debts.

Musa said that his visit to Malta is within the framework of cooperation among the Mediterranean countries and preparation for a meeting among a number of those countries' foreign ministers to study the situation in the region and coordinate policies. He noted he will also discuss ways of bolstering ties between Egypt and Malta in all fields.

Police Officer Wounded by Explosive Devices

NC1506185394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—Lieutenant Muhammad Sa'id Mustafa of the Ihnasya police station in Bani Suwayf, Upper Egypt, was slightly wounded in the right arm when two unidentified assailants threw two crude devices at the police car he was driving, a responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated.

The source pointed out that at 1030 this morning and while the aforementioned police officer was driving through the Ihnasya market place on his way to the station from his residence, two unidentified persons threw charges at the car. The car windows were smashed and the officer was slightly wounded by the flying glass. Senior officials from the Bani Suwayf Security Directorate and experts from the criminal laboratory headed immediately for the scene of the incident to examine it. Security agencies have stepped up their efforts to arrest the assailants. The prosecution's office has been notified to start an investigation.

Terror Suspects Detained; Explosives Seized

NC1506184694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—State Security Intelligence agents have arrested 79 terrorist elements in sweeps carried out in a number of southern governorates.

According to an Interior Ministry statement, the sweeps led to the confiscation of five explosive charges weighing 0.5 kg each, 10 sticks of gelignite, seven electric detonators, 14 loaded ammunition clips, bullets of various calibers, a mini-truck with Suhaj license plate No. 10426 belonging to fugitive terrorist Mahmud Salim, and a number of documents. State Security investigators are interrogating the detained terrorists and searching for other individuals believed to have links with them.

Lawyers Held for Distributing Antigovernment Fliers

NC1506211194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—The Central Cairo Prosecution Office will issue a decision tomorrow morning, Thursday, concerning the continued detention of 33 lawyers, including two members of the Bar Association's board. The lawyers are held in custody in connection with investigations concerning the demonstration that took place at the Bar Association on 17 May. In another development, Higher State Security Public Attorney 'Abd-al-Sami' Sharaf today decided to remand Ahmad Nasir, a former member of the Bar Association's board, and four other lawyers for 15 days pending investigations. The attorney accused the defendants of distributing leaflets hostile to the regime and urging lawyers to demonstrate and disturb public order. The lawyers were arrested after distributing leaflets at South Cairo court during the questioning by Central Cairo Prosecution investigators of some of the lawyers detained in connection with the demonstration at the Bar Association on 17 May.

[Paris AFP in English at 1900 GMT on 15 June in a Cairo-datelined item adds the following:

["Egyptian security services have arrested five lawyers just hours after the prosecutor's office refused to release 33 others being held on public order charges, a human rights body said Wednesday.

["The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights said the five were arrested overnight and condemned the measure, saying it could only aggravate the tension between the government and the bar association.

["Earlier the prosecutor retained in custody 33 lawyers arrested during a rally organised by the bar association to protest the death in custody of colleague 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, a legal source said.

["Most of the 38 now being held belong to the outlawed but tolerated Moslem Brotherhood.

["The human rights group said the lawyers had been accused of "disturbing public order, inciting demonstrations and holding leaflets they intended to distribute.

["In a statement it condemned the fact that such acts were banned although they "form part of the right to non-violent expression.

["The group also called on the government to release its findings into Madani's death. Lawyers have charged Madani was tortured to death in April, but the prosecutor's office has said he suffered an asthma attack."]

Morocco

OAU Action Rejected in Western Sahara Referendum

LD1506083994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] It has been officially announced in Rabat that Morocco has again rejected any OAU participation in carrying out the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara, which the United Nations has set for the end of 1994.

This confirmation came after the Moroccan Government received a message from the UN secretary general in which he informed Morocco of the appointment of two OAU representatives charged with the task of monitoring the work of the voter identification commission for the people invited to participate in the elections.

King's Adviser: Rabat Boycotting OAU Meetings

LD1506133294 Rabat MAP in English 1319 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, June 15 (MAP)—Morocco will maintain its boycott of the meetings of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) as long as the 'Polisario' [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] continues to seat [as received] there, said Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco.

In a statement published Tuesday by Saudi daily 'UKAZ', Bensouda said Morocco did not attend any OAU meeting since the admission of the 'Polisario' and is still upholding its stands. The so-called Polisario is bustling to hamper the holding of the referendum in the Moroccan Sahara and wants a referendum that fits its interests, said Bensouda recalling that several members of the 'Polisario' had joined Morocco, for they know that the Sahara is Moroccan.

On Morocco's relations with Arab countries, Ahmed Bensouda said King Hassan II is endeavoring along with Arab heads of state to clear up the Arab atmosphere and preserve Arab resources and capacities.

Gabon's Bongo Arrives in Rabat on 1-Day Visit

AB1506224694 Paris AFP in French 2131 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Summary] Rabat, 15 Jun (AFP)—Gabon's President Omar Bongo arrived this evening in Rabat on a one-day private visit on his way back from the OAU summit in Tunis. He is scheduled to hold discussions on bilateral and African issues with King Hassan II.

Military Court Sentences Arms Traffickers

LD1606105594 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, 16 Jun (MAP)—The permanent military court of the Royal Armed Forces in Rabat has passed jail sentences ranging from five to 20 years on eight defendants, six of whom are Moroccans and the other two Algerians, who were all charged with "violating laws on weapons and ammunition."

After six hours of deliberation, the court sentenced the defendant Ighiri Hassan to 20 years imprisonment and a 2,000 dirham fine and Abdelouahed Najm to 18 years and a 1,500-dirham fine. The two Algerian defendants, Hamaz Sa'id and Omar Cheblal, both received a 15-year jail sentence and a 1,000-dirham fine. Houcine Mouaden was sentenced to 12 years in prison and a 1,000-dirham fine, and both Kassou Ouali and Abdelkader Benjilali received a 10-year jail sentence and were ordered to pay a 1,000-dirham fine. Abdelkader Labsir was sentenced to five years imprisonment and a 1,000-dirham fine.

The court also ruled in favor of the confiscation of the weapons, ammunition, equipment, and foreign currency recovered and the restitution of the other equipment seized, namely a car and a video camera, to their rightful owners.

In the trial that began on 6 June, the main charges brought against the defendants included the possession of automatic weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment. The weapons and equipment found aboard a French-registered Mercedes car that had been driven through a number of European countries, all the way to Spain, and then to Morocco, were destined for individuals abroad.

Sudan

Rebels Release UN Relief Workers

EA1506204194 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The rebel movement today released UN relief workers and the two barges which the movement had taken over in the Jonglei area, after emptying them of their cargoes. This was reported to SUNA by Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Aghbash, the relief commissioner general. He said the two barges were currently on their way back to Malakal. [passage omitted]

U.S. Envoy Wells Holds Talks With Officials

Meets With al-Bashir

EA1506115594 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jun (SUNA)—Mrs. Melissa Wells, U.S. President Clinton's envoy, in a statement to SUNA in the context of the peace efforts and the resolution of the southern problem, has described her visit to Sudan as constructive. Mrs. Wells said after being received by President al-Bashir yesterday evening, that she would begin a tour today of some Sudanese states in line with her mission to Sudan.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the minister of state at the presidency of the Republic responsible for political affairs, had earlier told SUNA after President al-Bashir had received Mrs. Wells that she had brought a letter from U.S. President Clinton for President al-Bashir. He said Mrs. Wells came with the intention of expressing U.S. support for the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development initiative. He added that Mrs. Wells had referred to the importance of taking humanitarian aspects into account in the provision of relief and to the need to negotiate in a spirit of seriousness so as to achieve the aspirations for peace.

Meets Southern Assembly Members

EA1506193194 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 14 June (SUNA)—Mr. Angelo Beda, the deputy speaker of the Transitional National

Assembly [TNA], and a number of the Assembly's leaders representing southern states, met Mrs. Melissa Wells, the envoy of the American President to Sudan, in the context of efforts to establish peace and resolve the southern problem.

Mrs. Wells explained her mission to the country, recalling that she is continuing to support the peace effort and the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development states, in addition to endeavoring to guarantee the streamlining of relief operations to those in need.

She said that she would be eager to support regional efforts to formulate peace and declared her readiness to help all sides reach this goal.

The southern leaders, who are members of the Transitional National Assembly, told Mrs. Wells that the southern problem was a political one, as recognized by the Sudanese state, which was endeavoring to resolve it through all channels. They also briefed Mrs. Wells on the progress of peace, the reality of life in the southern states, and the determination of the state to provide food and other essentials to the citizens, even in areas controlled by factions of the rebellion. In this regard, they referred to the huge quantity of foodstuff set aside by the state for these areas.

Meets With Official Spokesman

EA1406152594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister at the federal government bureau and official government spokesman on the peace negotiations, met Ambassador Melissa Wells, the U.S. president's envoy, yesterday at his office in the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj confirmed to the ambassador that the rebel movement is not serious in the negotiations, pointing out the late arrival of the movement's delegation at the recent negotiations in Nairobi. He praised the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development countries' initiative and their constructive role in establishing peace in the country.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Holds Talks With Algerian President

LD1306205894 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] This afternoon President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held talks with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual at the conference palace in the capital, on the sidelines of the 30th OAU [Organization of African Unity] summit.

The official spokesman of the presidency said that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and means of bolstering and intensifying Tunisian-Algerian cooperation for the good of the two fraternal peoples, a number of issues of mutual interest at the Maghreban, Arab, and international levels, in addition to the topics on the agenda of the OAU summit.

The official spokesman explained that the two presidents also touched upon the prospects of Maghreban-African cooperation within the framework of the regional African groupings, and in light of the current summit's aspirations toward the revitalization of Arab- African cooperation and intensifying it in the various fields.

Kuwait

U.S. Ambassador Uninjured in Road Accident

LD1406141494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait City, 14 Jun (KUNA)—The car of Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, was involved in a road accident today. Two persons sustained slight injuries as a result of this accident.

A statement released by the U.S. Embassy, a copy of which was received by KUNA, said that "the ambassador was not injured in this accident; while two other persons, one of whom was the ambassador's driver, sustained slight injuries."

The statement indicated that the accident happened at 1000 local time at Roundabout No. 2.

Foreign Minister Receives Christopher Message

LD1406150694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1423 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait City, 14 Jun (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, received a message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

An authoritative source at the Foreign Affairs Ministry stated that the message—which was conveyed yesterday by Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to the State of Kuwait, to Sulayman al-Shahin, under secretary at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, dealt with bilateral relations, issues of common interest, and the latest developments in the region.

Qatar

UN Envoy to Yemen Brahimi Briefly Visits

Meets With Amir

JN1406191094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Doha, 14 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad al- Thani, amir of Qatar, received here this evening Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general to Yemen.

The Qatari News Agency said that during the meeting they discussed the situation in Yemen in light of the efforts being made as well as the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 924, which provides for returning security and stability to Yemen.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN1606114494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Doha, 16 Jun (WAKH)—Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, left Doha for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at noon today following a brief visit of a few hours to Qatar. During his visit to Doha, Brahimi met with Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani and reviewed with him the Yemeni crisis and the results of his meetings in Sanaa.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Discusses Yemen

LD1306183794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1724 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 13 Jun (SPA)—The Council of Ministers held its regular weekly meeting today at al-Salam Palace under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general of the army. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz talked about the continuous efforts made by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the custonian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, who is continuing his consultations and contacts with his Arab brethren kings and heads of state, as well as his meetings with envoys sent to the kingdom with a view to finding rapid solutions to the deteriorating situation in the region, particularly the current situation in sister Yemen.

The information minister said: "In this respect, his royal highness the second deputy prime minister listened to the views and questions of some ministers and he discussed all the opinions expressed and clarified the position of the kingdom about them. He also lauded the role played by the UN envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, and wished him success in his crucial mission. [passage omitted]

South Yemen Officials Arrive for Talks

LD1506212594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, 15 Jun (KUNA)—It has been reported here that Abu Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister of the declared state in the southern part of Yemen, arrived today in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for talks with Saudi officials on the Yemeni crisis.

Al-'Attas is accompanied on this visit by 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, his foreign affairs minister. Al-Asnaj who is visiting Saudi Arabia for the first time since his appointment in the southern government, which has been recently announced.

Al-'Attas's visit is considered the second in the current month [item incomplete as received]

United Arab Emirates

Yemen's al-'Attas Holds Talks, Departs

JN1506152394 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Jun (WAKH)—Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, left Abu Dhabi today after a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates as part of his tour of several countries in the region.

During his visit, al-'Attas held talks with senior Emirian officials on the situation in Yemen.

Yemen

Defense Council Meets on Military Situation

EA1506114594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The National Defense Council met yesterday evening under the chairmanship of [words indistinct] the deputy prime minister. ADEN NEWS AGENCY has learned that the council discussed the military situation at the various fronts and the military activity of the people's resistance movement to confront the forces of injustice and aggression. The Council also discussed the results of the visit of the UN secretary general's envoy, His Excellency Lakhdar Brahimi [words indistinct]. The Council also [word indistinct] the temporary measures adopted to overcome the consequences of the military aggression launched by the [passage indistinct].

Saudi Arabia Said Mobilizing Tanks on Border

JN1506135394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 15 Jun (INA)—The Saudi regime has mobilized military units near its common borders with Yemen, and placed them on high alert as part of its efforts to support the secessionists in Yemen.

Political sources in Sanaa revealed yesterday that the Saudi regime has mobilized 150 tanks in the Maydi area bordering Yemen [as received].

The sources added that the Saudi regime, which has intensified its blatant interference in Yemeni domestic affairs by supplying the secessionists with military hardware, which is reaching them over land, by sea, and by air, has recently recruited large groups of mercenaries to support the secessionists besieged in Aden and al-Mukalla.

The Saudi regime is practicing repression against the Yemenis hailing from southern and eastern Yemeni governorates to make them join training camps launched to prepare them for fighting on the side of the secessionists in Yemen.

Political and diplomatic sources in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, said that Saudi Arabia has earmarked large amounts of money for supporting the secessionists and tearing Yemeni unity apart. Saudi Arabia believes that it can, through arms deals and unlimited support for the secessionists, influence the course of the fighting and settle it in favor of the secessionists.

It is to be recalled that the Yemeni people believe that Yemeni unity is a sacred accomplishment, because it was achieved by their own free will. The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen was endorsed by the Yemenis in a public referendum on 16 May 1990. This Constitution deems unity an eternal right for the Yemeni people.

The history of the Yemeni-Saudi conflict dates back to 70 years ago, when the ruling Saudi family imposed the current borders on the al-Mutawakkilite kingdom, which ruled Yemen then.

The Saudi regime's concern for thwarting Yemeni unity has prompted it to launch an office managed and supervised by Saudi Defense Minister Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. This office was launched to carry out acts of sabotage in Yemen and tear its unity asunder. Several billions of dollars have been earmarked for this office.

The Yemeni political sources noted that the Yemeni political crisis was engineered by the Saudis. This took place when 'Ai Salim al-Bid, leader of the secessionists, visited Saudi Arabia months after the realization of unity, and met with [King] Fahd, the leader of the Saudi regime. During that visit, al-Bid secretly promised Fahd to renege on unity in return for financial and economic support.

The Saudi regime is using this plan to put pressure on the Yemeni leadership, which has rejected the Saudi conditions for demarcating the common borders. The Saudis want the current borders to be the final borders.

Since 1934, Saudi Arabia has occupied three oil-rich Yemeni areas; namely, Jizan, 'Asir, and Najran, the area of which exceeds 300,000 square kilometers. Saudi Arabia has refused to return these Yemeni territories to Yemen.

President Salih Receives GCC Ambassadors

JN1506130594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states to our country. The president asked the ambassadors to convey messages to his brothers the leaders of these states on developments in our country and issues concerning relations between our country and each of their states.

In his messages, the brother president stressed that what is going on in Yemen is an internal affair in which no party should interfere in order to ensure that the conflict will not be prolonged and to spare further Yemeni blood. The brother president urged his brothers the leaders of the GCC member states to do whatever is needed to preserve the Yemeni unity and stability in Yemen which will be in the interest of the Yemeni people and strengthen security and stability in the region. He stressed that the Yemeni unity is an important and basic element for stability in Yemen and the region and embodies the Arab nation's national objectives and supreme interests. He also stressed that preserving this unity is a pan- Arab responsibility as much as a Yemeni responsibility.

The brother leader noted the Republic of Yemen's eagerness to improve its strong brotherly ties with its sisterly GCC member states on the basis of mutual respect, good neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, and the positive cooperation that embodies the common aspirations of the Yemeni people and their brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

House Urges Distribution of Stockpiled Food

JN1506140294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The House of Representatives held an ordinary session this morning under Brother Dr. Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, member of the House's Speakership Office.

At the outset of the session, the people's deputies reviewed and ratified the minutes of the previous session after urging and appealing to the government agencies to transport and distribute the basic food commodities available in large quantities at ports, mills, warehouses, and silos. These commodities, the House stressed, must be distributed to citizens in all governorates of the Republic of Yemen, and merchants and the public and private food suppliers must sell the commodities hoarded in their houses to the citizens at the official prices. The agencies charged with monitoring prices must fulfill their tasks in this and other fields, continuously and without showing any leniency. [passage omitted]

Aden Official: Iraq 'Directly' Involved in War

PM1506144094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 3

[Interview with south Yemen "Defense Minister" Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir by Lutfi Shatarah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shatarah] You have on numerous occasions raised the question of Iraqi, Sudanese, Jordanian, and Eritrean involvement in the ongoing war between northern and southern forces. Is there irrefutable evidence of this involvement, given that Iraq says that the prisoners are teachers?

[Tahir] I can—regrettably—confirm to you that Iraq is implicated and a partner in this war against our people. Iraq is involved directly through its military experts and soldiers who are fighting alongside northern forces. A number of them have been captured, and Iraq could not deny this. The war is—beyond any doubt—basically run by Iraqi experts, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih considers himself a new Saddam, or as brother President 'Ali Salim al-Bid described him, "a little Saddam."

We have irrefutable evidence of Jordan's implication in the war alongside 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and against our people in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY]. Sudan too is participating directly or indirectly in this war, proceeding from the close relations between Sudan and North Yemen, where parties, fundamentalist groups, and influential military leaders are in control of power.

And you know that Afghan jihad elements are fighting alongside northern forces on a number of fronts.

As for the Iraqi prisoners issue, it merits interest and a pause for consideration. Let us explain the scenario and the contradictory statements made by both North Yemen and Iraq. Initially, Sanaa and Baghdad categorically denied Iraq's participation in the war. When Iraqi prisoners, who were captured on the Shabwah-Hadhramaut military axis, appeared on television, Sanaa claimed that they were nurses who had been arrested at al-Hutah hospital in Lahij Governorate to be used as prisoners. As not even children or madmen would believe this story, Baghdad had to admit the presence of Iraqi military personnel contracted privately to join the Yemeni Army. So one of them bore witness to that.

[Shatarah] The northern Air Force's resumption of activities in the fighting has probably dashed your hopes that the early southern air strikes neutralized the northern Air Force.

[Tahir] Actually the northern Air Force's role has been limited, not completely paralyzed. Not only because of the crushing air strikes our Air Force launched against military airports in Sanaa, al-Hudaydah, and Ta'izz—which destroyed a large number of aircraft as well as these airports, and thus paralyzed the effectiveness of the northern Air Force—but also because the combat preparedness of the northern Air Force was very limited.

But it was the Iraqi and Jordanian aid and expertise which—to some extent—have restored the effectiveness of the northern Air Force recently. Nevertheless, all the air raids launched by the aircraft of the military regime in Sanaa have so far failed to inflict any damage on military targets, that is with the exception of the damage to the fuel tanks in the Aden refinery and the damage to a part of the electrothermal station, water tanks, and the homes of peaceful citizens. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] The northern leadership accused you of signing an arms deal with North Korea which includes tanks, artillery, and Sukhoy aircraft. What truth is there in this?

[Tahir] That accusation is absolutely baseless. And you can refer to the statement made by the official spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry, who categorically denied that accusation.

All the accusations Sanaa is leveling at us are designed for the media and to divert attention from the military aid and arms deals it has obtained and is obtaining from a number of states, including Iraq and Iran.

[Shatarah] How did northern forces manage to reach the approaches of Aden? And do you expect the city to be captured by the northerners?

[Tahir] First, I repeat that the military regime in Sanaa prepared and planned for this war very early, while we were not prepared. Nor did we expect such an all-out war.

Second, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his advisers planned to occupy all the south. His forces attacked all border areas between the two parts [of Yemen]. He had thought that the situation would be settled within two or three days at the most. You remember the various statements he and his ministers made about settling the situation within 24, 48, or 72 hours. But the hours, days, and weeks have elapsed and nothing has happened.

It means that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's forces reached the approaches of Aden on after they suffered huge losses in both lives and equipment. But the military strategic aims of the war have failed completely. They have been broken on the rock of the steadfastness of our forces, which are defending bravely and steadfastly. The attack on Aden has failed, and northern forces have failed to advance as a result of our forces' steadfastness and death defiance.

In search of another shelter, the military regime in Sanaa is haphazardly and barbarously bombarding residential areas in Aden Governorates and vital economic installations by artillery, rockets, and aircraft. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] You said in a local newspaper that there is internal treason. Can you specify it? And why did it happen?

[Tahir] It is very natural for infiltrations to happen here and there, as everyone considered themselves people of one state, and they dealt with one another innocently. Besides, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has been pursuing the divide-and-rule principle. He has earnestly tried to create and fuel further splits and disputes in a bid to influence the internal front.

At any rate, those who joined the ranks of the military regime in Sanaa can be counted on the fingers of one hand and they have had no serious effect on the combat position of our forces, who have very bravely fought a brutal aggression in an all-out war which was planned and prepared for long ago.

[Shatarah] In your capacity as DRY defense minister, what are your priorities at the moment?

[Tahir] We are still engaged in the war imposed on us by the military regime in Sanaa. When victory has been achieved, God willing, we will begin our first tasks, first and foremost rebuilding and reorganizing our Armed Forces on modern scientific foundations so as to fulfill the requirements of the defense of our country and its national sovereignty. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Why is the south insisting on bringing international observers to supervise the cease-fire?

[Tahir] We have bitter experience with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his military regime with regard to promises, treaties, and agreements.

We signed more than 100 agreements with him, none of which has been implemented. The most recent is the Pledge and Accord Document signed in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 20 February. It was circumvented on the day it was signed. The regime in Sanaa suffers from a split personality with regard to words and actions. So we cannot rely on any agreement with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, because he has lost all credibility and respects no pledge or agreement.

There is another reason: we are now an independent state and the war is between two states, and it is natural for us to refer our issue to the international organization.

[Shatarah] What measures will you take if Sanaa continues to attack vital installations in Aden or if it storms the city and rejects international initiatives?

[Tahir] Sanaa is still attacking vital economic installations in Aden and residential areas, just as it attacked villages and cities during its occupation.

We will not be able to stand with our hands tied if it continues its actions, which contravene the rules of war and human rights. As for storming Aden, it is impossible. And if Sanaa continues to rejects all international initiative, it is going to pay a very high price.

North Said Continuing 'Iniquitous' Aggression

EA1506165794 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] has issued a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, in which he reported that the forces of the Sanaa rulers today continued their savage, iniquitous aggression against our people and Republic, the DRY. The source stressed that the aggression against our country and people, and its constant escalation, represented a naked violation of international legitimacy. The source also stressed that the Sanaa rulers were ignoring

all appeals calling for an immediate cease-fire put out by worldwide well-wishers, who are anxious to see an end to bloodshed and the restoration of security and stability in Yemen, and in the region.

Al-Bid Meets With Hadhramaut Tribes

EA1506214794 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, yesterday evening met a number of representatives of the tribes of al-Awatifah, and the al [clan] ba Wazir, al (Jayd), and al al-Haddad from Hadhramaut Governorate, who expressed their support for the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] as the latest victory for the national movement for building a modern state of law and order. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid hailed those present, and expressed his congratulations on the occasion of the Islamic New Year. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said that the declaration of the establishment of the Republic was made three weeks after the beginning of the war, and the northern insistence on effecting an occupation, so that citizens had to defend their Republic and its sovereignty.

He said: It was they who imposed the war, but they cannot impose surrender on us, because they lack the capacity to do so. He stressed the need to hail the resistance, reject the occupation, have faith in victory, defend the Republic, reject silence in the face of injustice, and defend the solidarity of the front, because we have right on our side. He stressed that the Yemeni Socialist Party did not envisage ruling on its own, because it believed in pluralism, with the participation of the various parties, all personalities in society, all individuals of goodwill, patriotic shaykhs, and all who love this Republic and struggle for its sake. The brother chairman of the Presidential Council said. We are now experiencing another stage imposed on us after 25 [number as heard] years since independence and now, once again, we are struggling for our independence.

We are struggling to stop the influence of this gang from penetrating these regions, because they are committing crimes, abominations, and pillage. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid lauded the heroic steadfastness of the citizens of Aden, the citizens in general, and the Armed Forces and security forces on the various battlefronts. He noted that the comprehensive recognition of the establishment of the Republic would accrue from this steadfastness and determination, because our forces spring from our people. [passage omitted]

He stressed that we Yemenis will not agree to be fourth class citizens, because we are fighters who created a democratic Yemen by making sacrifices. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid called on the sons of Hadhramaut Governorate to step up their mobilization and strengthen their ranks, in order to fight this invasion. He noted that historically, in the 17th century, such resistance prevailed in Hadhramaut when invaders reached Dhofar during the reign of Imam al-Mutawakkil ala'Allah Isma'il. Then they withdrew from Dhofar to the sea, and were never able to return. He said: Today you will also drive out these invaders from Hadhramaut. We shall not permit ourselves to be governed by the al-Ahmar family and the fundamentalists. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said: We in our country know our history and our past, and we take pride in our history. We shall work together with all our brothers in the DRY to protect the Republic and its capital, Aden. We shall improve our situation and build ourselves up to be better than we were. We shall open our windows and our relations with all the people of the world, in the peninsula, and in the gulf.

The meeting was attended by Brother Awad 'Abdallah Murshidi, secretary of Hadhramaut Governorate.

Cabinet Warns Against Price Tampering

JN1506180994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its periodic meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar. The council discussed several issues listed on its en TMF1 including the supply issue. After reviewing ideas on how to deal with supply problems in a radical and successful way, the council decided to task the Economic Council with working out ways to deal with the issue in an accurate manner after assessing all [word indistinct].

The Council of Ministers has recently noticed that a number of merchants are tampering with prices and exploiting the current situation in the country to tamper with citizens' food. Therefore, the government appeals to every one to shoulder his responsibility under the country's current circumstances imposed by the [word indistinct] homeland.

The government, at same time, warns against raising or tampering with prices, and considers such behavior an economic crime, the most serious of which is involvement in hoarding commodities. The council sent cables to the Ministry of Supply and Trade, the Ministry of Interior, the public prosecutor, the security forces, and all competent authorities to take deterrent measures against tamperers.

The council also expects the brother citizens to cooperate with these institutions and to inform the competent authorities of anyone tampering with prices. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Brahimi Arrives in Sanaa

JN1506175694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1728 GMT 15 Jun 94

[From the "News Followups" feature]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali's envoy brother Lakhdar Brahimi arrived in Sanaa this evening as part of his current mission to the Republic of Yemen.

Upon his arrival at Sanaa International Airport, Brahimi made a statement to the press on his current mission to our country. [passage indistinct]

Confers With Salih, Departs

JN1606054294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, last night received brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali. Talks dealt with several issues related to the fact-finding mission of the UN secretary general's envoy in implementation of Security Council Resolution 924. Brother Lakhdar Brahimi briefed the brother president on the results of his contacts within the framework of the mission entrusted to him by the UN secretary general.

The brother Presidential Council chairman emphasized anew our country's commitment to Security Council Resolution 924. He also noted the Yemeni Government's cease-fire initiatives since the resolution was adopted in order to give those who rebelled against legitimacy the chance to stop fighting and spare Yemeni blood. However, they foiled all these initiatives and did not respond to the calls made by brothers and friends to cease fire. They violated the cease-fire and did not commit themselves to the Security Council resolution with the aim of prolonging the conflict and internationalizing the Yemeni crisis.

He stressed our country's readiness for an open-minded dialogue to activate the entire joint military committee, which comprises the Yemeni side and a military team from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Sultanate of Oman, and the U.S. and French military attaches to our country, to supervise adherence to the cease-fire. This dialogue can take place in any of the following Arab capitals: Damascus, Riyadh, Cairo, or Rabat, within the framework of commitment to the principles that maintain unity, democracy, constitutional legitimacy, and sovereignty and independence of the one Yemen.

He emphasized our country's appreciation for Lakhdar Brahimi's efforts and its desire to extend all possible support to render his mission successful in a manner that realizes security, stability, and peace for Yemen.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, foreign minister, and 'Awni al-'Ani, UN Bureau representative in our country.

Following his meeting with brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, brother Lakhdar Brahimi replied to questions posed by [Yemeni] television by saying that he has been acquainted with the Yemeni views as well as the views of others in the region, and he will complete this task within the next two days in a way that will enable him to carry out his basic mission—the submission of a report to the UN secretary general.

He added: I think I held useful talks on two basic points at this stage. These are ceasing fire to stop the bloodshed and starting dialogue.

Brother Lakhdar Brahmi left Sanaa last night at the end of a short visit to our country.

Northern Forces Fire Missiles, Artillery on Aden

EA1506205394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Statement by "responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen" issued to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] The ruling military regime in Sanaa has continued its blatant, adventurist defiance to the will of the international community, and all Arab and international efforts aimed at ending the shedding of Yemeni blood and the comprehensive war launched by the ruling military regime in Sanaa, over a month and half ago, in a desperate and [words indistinct] move in our country. Since this morning, the ruling military regime in Sanaa has continued its aggressive offensive attempts on all fronts, and in the course of its hostile operations this evening launched ground-to-ground missiles on the peaceful, calm city of Aden, intensifying its random shelling of residential areas. This evening the peaceful inhabitants of Aden were taken by surprise by three missiles fired toward the capital. Our air defenses intercepted them and shot one down, while the other two fell into the sea. One of the residential areas was hit by shellfire. A number of long-range artillery rockets did serious damage to the homes of innocent citizens. [passage omitted]

At Least 18 Reportedly Killed in Aden Shelling

NC1606071694 Paris AFP in English 0607 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 16 (AFP)—Northern shelling killed at least 18 people early Thursday in a suburb of the southern stronghold of Aden, hospital officials said.

The shelling also set fire to several homes in the Shaykh 'Uthman suburb, just to the north of the city, and sent residents fleeing to safer areas.

The wounded were still being taken to the Al-Jumhuriyah hospital three hours after the dawn attack, officials at the hospital added.

Shaykh 'Uthman is about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the front lines to the north where southern and northern forces have been fighting artillery duels almost daily.

The war in Yemen broke out on May 5.

Warplane Said To Fire Upon al-Bid's Home

LD1606091094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0839 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Jun 16—Eyewitnesses have reported that a northern fighter plane attempted this morning to shell the house of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], in the suburb of Kuraitar, the largest suburb of Aden.

The witnesses added that the plane fired one of its missiles at the house of al-Bid, who is currently in Hadramawt governorate. They said that ground defenses fired at the plane, forcing it to flee.

The extent of damage to al-Bid's house as a result of the incident was not immediately known.

Northern Planes Reportedly Bomb Aden Airport

NC1606094494 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 16 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni warplanes dodged southern anti-aircraft fire to bomb Aden airport on Thursday, damaging hangers there, an AFP correspondent reported.

A huge plume of smoke rose above the airport in the southern stronghold as ambulances raced to the scene, following the air raid late morning.

There were no immediate details of casualties or the extent of the damage.

Northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, besieging the key port city of Aden for three weeks, have targeted the airport several times to stop southern jet planes from taking off there.

Meanwhile, northern artillery units continued to fire shells sporadically at Aden following a dawn attack on the northern suburb of Shaykh 'Uthman which hospital officials said killed at least 18 civilians and wounded several more.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Inflation

JN1506200394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has presided over a cabinet meeting, the fifth since his excellency the president assumed the premiership on 30 May.

During its fifth meeting, the cabinet continued its discussion of some economic issues that were debated during the previous meetings.

When the issue of economic inflation was raised, the leader president made some remarks, saying: The Iraqi performance in terms of production and reconstruction, despite this artificial and transient inflation in the Iraqi economy, has been promoted over the past few years, thanks to the Iraqis' minds, as well as their role in building the future.

The leader president added: As you are well aware, the reconstruction drive has been carried out thanks to legendary efforts made in a legendary time period, and at low cost. This is especially true if such a drive were to be conducted by foreign companies. Many times the time spent and cost sustained would have to be made available to such companies if the results achieved by the Iraqi national endeavor were to be attained. Additionally, Iraq's wealth has remained intact. It is still underground. None of it has been disbursed. It has not fallen under the domination of foreign colonialist powers. Nor has it been plundered by these powers. Moreover, oil installations have been rebuilt. Oil is ready to be exported once the embargo is lifted.

His excellency the president went on to say: He who makes a naive comparison between the exchange rate of the dinar and that of the dollar is gravely mistaken. For can a man live on two dollars in the United States, or even on 10 dollars, and still eat meat?

The leader president said: So, this is not the real value of the Iraqi dinar. For, the Iraqi dinar is supported by a broad and extensive base of work, activities, and accomplishments, not to mention the ration card, free education, health services, and other services. It is true that the price of 10 dollars is too much if these dollars were to be exchanged for dinars. But, as a matter of fact, Iraqis can, by paying an equivalent of 100 dollars, buy more commodities and services than those Americans can buy by paying 100 dollars. The exception to this concerns the prices of certain imported commodities.

The Council then discussed red tape at state departments and its side effects. His excellency the president addressed the cabinet ministers: The disequilibrium in public offices has not emerged overnight. Likewise, we realize that it is impossible to correct it in a single day. Nonetheless, the level of your hard work at present is being felt by all citizens, who feel that their state has become more active and vibrant. To correct mistakes in administrative functions, we need to focus on some aspects concerning citizens' affairs and transactions in order to simplify them. In the same vein, we need to work energetically and actively to correct the mistakes and deviations rapidly and firmly, because this is required by the phase we are experiencing. If we do so, this will deter those who make mistakes and hearten correctors. Consequently, the determination will grow further. We want your resolve to be at a high level on the first day. We want you to demonstrate greater vigor until the day the remedial action is completed. This is because any weakness in resolve will bring about new deviations. So, what is required now is determination, increased determination, and stronger determination.

The leader president said: The emergence of some deviations in our country causes us harm. It also harms the march, which you and your people seek to safeguard. Hence, we must work to make the deviant constantly feel that he will not go unpunished regardless of how long this might take. Your handling of red tape should not be guided by conventional methods. The minister himself must personally examine all transactions that concern citizens step by step. He must delve into details, cut back on the required procedures, paperwork, and references as much as he can. He must set a time limit for this, and submit proposals if necessary to amend regulations or laws. Likewise, he must submit a copy of the measures he thinks can reduce red tape to the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers so we may discuss them at our cabinet meetings.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Economic, Trade Issues

JN1306125394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has chaired a meeting for a number of ministers and experts in trade and industrial affairs.

The conferees discussed several economic and trade issues, including the issuance of legislation punishing those who sell foreign currency outside the officially-licensed offices. These traders are regarded as thieves liable to the stipulations of Decree No. 59 issued by the Revolution Command Council on 4 June 1994. Also liable to punishment are farmers who deliberately fail to deliver grains to the marketing centers. This includes merchants who stockpile items listed in the ration cards with the aim of monopoly and tampering with prices in a departure from the fixed price. This also includes the profit margin, which should be reconsidered in order to encourage merchants to trade in these items, and to put prices within a reasonable framework for the citizen who purchases them in addition to his share provided by the state through the ration card. The conferees agreed that the profit margin for wholesalers and retail merchants be declared regarding these items.

During the meeting, specific ideas were raised to give the state a positive role in stabilizing the Iraqi dinar's exchange rate against the dollar, and not accepting the

common idea that the state's selling and purchasing ability is dependent upon the exchange rates of the dollar and dinar, which vary according to speculators and profiteers in the black market, who tamper with their exchange rates.

The conferees agreed on the importance of pursuing violators after announcing the set restrictions based on the new legislations. They also agreed on implementing these legislations with due firmness because the blockade is a form of war, and will remain so until it ends in decisive victory, God willing, through the resolve of the dedicated Iraqis and the glorious Iraqi women after having relied on Almighty God.

The conferees also agreed on the importance of deepening the discussions and highlighting what is agreed in a later expanded meeting in order to entrench it in the form of laws and specific regulations, so each concerned party precisely knows the limits of its rights and duties, and so all will work with determination to bring Iraq to safe shores, God willing, where the homeland will be cherished, lofty, and in good shape at a time when Iraq's people and victorious march, as well as all the good people, will enjoy inevitable pride which God will choose for them and which God will turn into a decisive victory and a steadfastness with an early end that promises both good and prosperity.

PRC Assistant Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad

Received by President Saddam

JN1606114794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, received PRC Assistant Foreign Minister Wang Changyi.

The Chinese guest conveyed the greetings and good wishes of the Chinese leadership to leader President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN1506202694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1911 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jun (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received PRC Assistant Foreign Minister Wang Changyi and the delegation accompanying him today.

During the meeting, the deputy prime minister gave a detailed explanation on the development of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council, and Iraq's intensive efforts to end the unjust embargo that was imposed on it even after it has implemented the obligations that were asked of it. 'Aziz said that now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations, the UN Security Council should also fulfill its obligations toward Iraq. Tariq 'Aziz praised the PRC's positive role in this respect.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed the need for the PRC, as a UN Security Council permanent member, to exercise an effective role by supporting Iraq's legitimate demands to end the unjust embargo after its causes have been eliminated.

During the meeting the two sides discussed friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the PRC and ways of enhancing them in service of the two friendly countries and people.

Yugoslav Government Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD1606094194 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0603 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (TANJUG)—Milorad Unkovic, federal minister for foreign economic relations, arrived in Baghdad this morning. He is heading a Yugoslav delegation during its official visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Government. In the course of his visit, scheduled to end on Monday, Unkovic will meet a number of high-ranking Iraqi officials.

He is expected to discuss bilateral relations and particularly economic problems and outstanding debts owed to Yugoslav companies which have for years been involved in construction projects. The projects and the payments for them were suspended after Iraqi troops entered Kuwait in August 1991.

German Parliamentarian Urges End to Suffering

JN1506115794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jun (INA)—Dr. Hans Sterchen has emphasized that the Arabs and other parties in the region are responsible for lifting the siege imposed on Iraq without waiting for a resolution by the United Nations and Washington.

In an interview published in ALIF BA' magazine, published today, Sterchen, who is the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the German Parliament, said the free German parliamentarians want to see the siege on Iraqi children lifted and to assist sick Iraqis by providing them with necessary medicines that are in short supply in Iraq due to the continuation of the siege.

The German parliamentarian criticized the attempts by some parties, inside and outside the region, to interfere in Iraq's international affairs. He stressed that Iraq should play its role in the region's security and stability.

He referred to the credibility of the Iraqi steps that contribute to the setting up a new order in the Arab arena that depends on coexistence and stability based on the rule of law in the internal and foreign sectors. He said he

was impressed by the democratic experiment and pluralism that was approved by the Iraqi National Assembly.

Sterchen urged those concerned with humanitarian activities to directly and actively contribute to, and assume their international role in ending the suffering of Iraq. He denounced the campaign against his noble humanitarian efforts to assist Iraq's children and other social sectors.

Concluding his statement, Dr. Sterchen, the free German parliamentarian, said: I will concentrate my efforts with the United Nations to provide more assistance to Iraq, and I will do all I can with the Humanitarian Assistance Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee to use the frozen Iraqi funds in Germany to extend humanitarian and food assistance to the Iraqi people.

Turkish Charge Says Trade To Resume in June

JN0806084994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—Sa'di Jalshar [name as received], Turkey's charge d'affaires in Baghdad, has said that mid-June will see the implementation of the Turkish Government's decision to resume trade activities with Iraq through al-Khabur border post.

AL-JUMHURIYAH today reports that Jalshar's assertions were made during a meeting with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih. He also said that Turkey will implement its decision after completing all the necessary measures by the Turkish Finance Ministry and Turkish customs authorities.

The Turkish charge d'affaires added that officials in his country are holding intensive contacts with the UN Security Council permanent members to arrive at a common understanding to implement the two agreements which Ankara and Baghdad reached on the reopening of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline.

He noted that the foreign relations committee in his country's parliament asked Osdom Sanirk [name as received], the Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, to provide detailed information on his recent visit to Baghdad and the successful talks he held with Iraqi officials in (?April).

Airspace 'Violation' Protested to Arab League

JN1606125194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the continued violation of its airspace by the U.S., British, and French aircraft flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said these aircraft continued their violation of Iraqi airspace during the period 1-8 June, carrying out 462 aggressive sorties.

Iraq's representative asked that the letter, along with the list detailing these violations, be circulated to the Arab member states.

Decree Appoints New Central Bank Governor

JN0706141394 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 2 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] AL-QADISIYAH has learned that a republican decree has been issued appointing 'Isam Rashid Huwaysh (the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Socialist Bank) as governor of the Central Bank of Iraq to replace Tariq Talib al-Takmaji.

Minister: State Subsidizing 99.7 Percent of Food

JN1406142694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has told the Iraqi News Agency that the assistance provided by the state in accordance with the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, in order to ensure food for the citizens at symbolic prices amounts to 99.7 percent of the cost of the foodstuffs that Iraqi families receive under the ration card.

The minister added: The official price of the foodstuffs that are given to every individual under the ration card is 3.085 dinars, while their market price is 1,015 dinars. Thus the state pays the difference of 1,012 dinars for every individual. The official price of milk and the other materials such as soaps and washing powders given to children below one year is 3.400 dinars, while the market price is 700 dinars. Thus, the state pays a difference in price of 697 dinars.

Citizens Urged To Ration Electricity Consumption

JN1606081994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] The Ministry of Industry and Minerals has emphasized that its technical and engineering cadres specialized in the electrical sector are doing their best to ensure that electrical current reaches all parts of the country.

Subhi Nijm al-'Ani, director general of the Electricity Department said that ensuring constant electrical current depends on citizens' cooperation with the technical organs through rationing consumption of electrical power and avoiding unnecessary consumption or unjustified extravagance.

He said such intentional extravagance in electricity consumption includes switching on a large number of lights in gardens and houses, which wastes a great deal of energy and encroaches on the rights of others.

He said the best type of light for rationing electricity is the neon light because it consumes less energy and gives more light.

Paper Ridicules Iranian Claim to 3 Gulf Islands

JN1606105694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 3

["Standpoint" column by Mua'yyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "The Three Islands and These Iranian Statements"]

[Text] For Iran to refuse returning the occupied islands to Arab sovereignty and to insist on carving up, confiscating, and Persianizing these islands; and in fact escalating its aggressive threats every time their subject is brought up here or there is not new. That regime is accustomed to making such threats through its officials from time to time, which clearly reveals Iran's greed and ambitions for expansion and occupation. This tendency has always characterized its policy with the neighboring countries.

Although the Iranian regime has tried several times to show moderation, flexibility, and a desire to establish relations of good neighborliness with the countries of the region, those attempts were, at best, no more than a bridge to cross, expand, and interfere in the internal affairs of those countries and to fulfill its sickening dreams and delusions to dominate the region and its affairs.

Perhaps Rafsanjani's recent statements to maintain the occupation of Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa Islands and his declaration that any attempt to regain those islands will have to be through a sea of blood, truly express the Iranian regime's arrogant mentality and policy of belligerency and piracy. But the responsibility for this Iranian belligerency and piracy is born by the UAE and most of the other Gulf states for appeasing that regime and keeping silent about its interferences and terrorist acts. That unprincipled, compromising has contributed to Iranian expansionism and encouraged the Tehran regime to maintain its occupation of the three islands.

By returning to the language of threats anew at a time when Tehran and other Iranian cities are witnessing protests, strikes, resistance operations, and deteriorating social, economic, and political conditions, the Iranian regime is trying to divert the Iranian people's attention from their worsening internal conditions. This is an old game which Iran also used during its aggression against Iraq. It is still playing this game in order to prolong the life of its crippled regime. By renewing its impudent threats and affirming its adherence to the tendencies of aggression and expansion and the same old dreams, the Iranian regime wants to hint that it can instill itself and its existence on the region. Yet, the reality confirms that regime's hollow claims, bankruptcy, and imminent collapse.

Rabin Sends 'Arafat Reply to Letters on Territories

TA1606050794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday sent PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a letter in which he replies to the three messages sent by the PLO chairman over recent days. The Rabin response was sent to 'Arafat through a Palestinian mediator. Earlier this week the prime minister said 'Arafat's letters dealt with issues relating to the autonomy agreements and problems that have arisen in the territories. Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic correspondent says it appears the issues include the closure on the territories, and clashes in Hebron between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers and civilians.

Rabin Approves Jordan Valley Settlements Aid Package

TA1606090694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has approved a 15-million shekel aid package to Jordan Valley settlements. The aid will be given as a loan for five years. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that 3-million shekels of this sum will be transferred to the settlers of Na'ama, who chained themselves to the border fence earlier this week to protest the fact that the government is not aiding them. The demands of the Jordan Valley settlers have now been fully met. The head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council thanked the prime minister, adding this aid proves that Rabin supports the strengthening the Jordan Valley settlements.

Peres Denies Agreement on 'Arafat Jerusalem Visit

TA1606100994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 94 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay, Gid'on Alon, Eytan Rabin, and Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat agreed in their meeting in Bucharest two weeks before the Cairo agreement was signed that 'Arafat would visit Temple Mount," Palestinian sources said yesterday.

According to these sources, the agreement was preceded by exhausting negotiations in which 'Arafat repeatedly raised his request to visit Jerusalem escorted by armed Palestinian policemen. The Israelis initially refused his request, but finally agreed to allow 'Arafat to hold a ceremonial visit to Temple Mount, perhaps even accompanied by flag-bearing Palestinian policemen.

Peres stated yesterday that Israel had not received a request from 'Arafat to visit Jerusalem. "We do not rush to give answers to unasked questions," said Peres, who is currently visiting Ukraine. Sources in his entourage noted that to the best of their knowledge the reports about an agreement reached between Peres and 'Arafat during their meeting in Bucharest concerning the PLO chairman visiting Jerusalem escorted by flag-bearing Palestinian policemen are not true. [passage omitted]

Security sources noted yesterday that Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian secret service in the territories whose activities have been confined to the Jericho area, visited East Jerusalem and the Old City on several occasions over the past few weeks. The sources expressed their concern about this occurrence, noting that these visits might cause security damage. [passage omitted]

Government Unable To Ban 'Murderers' in Palestinian Police

TA1506183594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Israel will not be able to prevent murderers of Jews from serving in the Palestinian police. This emerges from a letter sent by the Information Department of the Prime Minister's Office which was obtained by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. A resident of the settlement of Teqoa' in the territories wrote a letter to the prime minister asking whether the murderers of Jews, including the man who murdered his neighbor and was released, will be allowed to serve in the Palestinian police, or will Israel prevent this.

The letter of reply from the Prime Minister's Office says, among other things, that the Israeli Government will continue fighting terrorism and hunt down those sabotaging peace, but will not be able to determine who can serve in the Palestinian police.

General Describes Situation in Autonomy Areas

TA1606053094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Just about one month since the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, Israel's coordinator in the territories described the transition as smooth, but said the problem for the Palestinians remains that of lack of funds. Major General Dani Rothschild, in a briefing to reporters, said the Palestinian Authority needs startup funds for salaries and operating costs. In a meeting in Paris last week, donor countries gave $42 million for operating costs. But the Palestinian budget is three to four time that of what had been under Israeli administration. Rothschild said the increase comes from having to finance the police force. Previously security needs had been supplied mostly by the Israel Army. Those costs came from a separate budget. Rothschild also said Israel is continuing to provide basic services, including electricity, water, and telephones to the Palestinians in the autonomous areas, but the Palestinians will recompense Israel when they can.

[Begin Rothschild recording] We didn't leave a paradise there. With a population as big as in Gaza, with a poor infrastructure, with lack of jobs, and with a very high birth rate, it's almost impossible to create a paradise.

Having said that, we ensured that everyone who needs the basic service will get it. Now, here and there we hear about people who didn't get the services, and we are dealing every day with exceptions, but at the end of the day those are exceptions, because the Israeli Government has the responsibility to finance all those services which I just mentioned until the Palestinian Authority will have sufficient resources to finance itself. The answer is no, the Israeli Government will not finance those services, but having said that, the Israeli Government will ensure that those services are going to be given to the Palestinian Authority and in the meantime Israel will pay for it, and in the future Israel and the Palestinian Authority, in a joint economic committee which was decided upon in Paris, will sit and will arrange all those bills, so eventually the Palestinian Authority will have to pay. [end recording]

U.S. Ban on Export of Supercomputers Bypassed

TA1506170294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Jun 94 p 19

[Report by Dudi Goldman]

[Text] Several Israeli institutions recently purchased sophisticated American computers with a capacity equivalent to that of a supercomputer, which the U.S. Defense Department has banned from being exported to Israel.

The United States restricts exports of fast supercomputers to many countries, especially those who have not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. But a new development by the U.S. firm Mips [as transliterated] and the Japanese firm Toshiba enhances the performance of medium-size computers, which can be exported to Israel, to the level of a very fast supercomputer, which cannot be exported to Israel.

The new development provides the computer with a processing capacity of 300 million instructions per second. In fact, it is a flexible computer which can operate on one array of chips, which does not require a special export license, but to which an additional array of chips can be added. A computer with three arrays of chips requires a special license since it attains the processing power of a supercomputer. In principle, even five such arrays of chips can be added to the computer.

Commentary on Competing With Palestinian Growth

TA1606082794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 10 Jun 94 p 3

[Commentary by Yo'el Bin-Nun: "In The Old Middle East"]

[Text] There is nothing new in the Middle East. They say that after Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir died, his successor Anwar al-Sadat was riding the presidential limousine. When he arrived at a junction in the center of Cairo, the driver asked: Where should we turn here? Where did the late president use to turn? al-Sadat asked. The driver said: Left, of course! (the Nasirist socialism). Well, then, al-Sadat said, signal to the left, but turn right.

Israel has become part of the Middle East thanks to the two governments of the late Menahem Begin who signed the Camp David agreements. Agreements that included an autonomy for the Palestinians, an Israeli withdrawal, and a strong Palestinian police force. At the time, everyone realized this was merely a fig leaf for Egypt allowing it to sign a separate agreement with Israel. Everyone also understood that Begin gave up on the entire Sinai to save Judaea and Samaria.

With one hand, Ari'el Sharon promoted the construction of strongholds in the Yamit Strip but, in a careless phone call, gave Begin his approval for the full withdrawal from the entire Sinai, and destroyed Yamit to the ground himself.

Even the faithful of Eretz Yisra'el were part of the Middle East then. The struggle conducted over the rooftops of Yamit was, in fact, not over Yamit. It was an attempt to deter possible negotiations over the fate of Judaea and Samaria.

We can say today that the struggle fulfilled its purpose perfectly. When asked how come there was no bitter struggle over Jericho, we answer that this struggle was conducted in Yamit, and the result of that struggle is the fact that in the current agreement, signed by a leftist government, the settlements remain in place and the Palestinians were forced to agree.

Now the struggle over Judaea and Samaria, and Jerusalem begins; or to be more precise: the struggle over Judaea and Samaria for Jerusalem, and over Jerusalem as the heart of Judaea and Samaria. The whole truth is not always said in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is now leading us to new levels in the Middle East. Last week he explained that he denied the letter on Jerusalem because: A. it was not released in Cairo; B. it was not sent to 'Arafat; C. it was not considered a commitment in the negotiations.

Here, Peres picked a noble example. If someone asked Ben-Gurion whether he met someone at 5 o'clock when the meeting was at 6, he would simply say no. No one asked him about a 6 o'clock meeting, therefore he did not answer. Peres calls this "an absolute truth."

True, the open agreements contain clauses far graver than this letter, and its exposure allows us to, perhaps, close some of the loopholes regarding Jerusalem. But, what about the norms of "our ministers'" conduct?

Now I understand what the foreign minister meant when he said that the PLO has not been involved in terror acts since the Oslo agreement was signed. He made the remark when objective sources reported that 35 acts of terror were perpetrated by Fatah groups between the signing of the Oslo agreement and the Cairo agreement.

Peres was simply referring to PLO-Tunis diplomats who were busy with the negotiations.

The time has come to examine Peres' economic vision for the Middle East. Naturally, he was not misleading us when he spoke of flourishing growth if the agreements succeed. He used the "absolute truth" method. The Palestinians will flourish and experience growth, Israel is supposed to shrink.

When Peres stood on the Knesset podium and spoke about the Israeli agriculture, about making the desserts blossom and glorifying Zionism, he knew he was delivering an eulogy. He knew that Palestinian farming is about to inherit Israeli farming; that every Palestinian well drilled in the Janin area will dry up a Zionist well in the Yizre'el Valley; that there is not enough water for two farming systems that make the desert flourish. He also knew that the prices of the Palestinian produce will eliminate the Israeli agriculture.

How do I know that he knew? Because, shortly after the Oslo agreement was signed, I obtained the forecasts of "Israel Toward the Year 2025," prepared by professional teams associated with the foreign minister.

They clearly forecasted that Israeli agriculture, along with other economic branches that require plenty of manual labor, will collapse. They forecast that Israel will be crowded, with people living in high-rises, and that housing prices will soar seriously. They realized that the growth we have been experiencing since the Six-Days War will be replaced by a Palestinian growth.

They also knew that the only chance the Israeli economy has to flourish depends on the level of our incorporation in "joint projects" with the Palestinians. This is precisely why Abu-Hulala [name as published], in charge of Palestinian development, has announced that Israeli entrepreneurs will not be incorporated in any of the projects.

Palestinians flourishing at our expense may not be critical, but this will not convince the Tel Aviv stock exchange. There, they have begun to understand this is the "absolute truth."

Does this have to happen? No! Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin can still come to his senses and retaliate for the dozens of Palestinian violations of the agreements: A. He can send the Palestinian national institutions to Jericho, with all due respect. B. He can renew construction, if only in the Israeli settlement strip in the western Samaria and Binyamin Districts, where there is a clear Jewish majority even today.

In doing so, Rabin will be securing Israeli control over the mountain aquifer, the Dan District water reservoir. He will prevent the elimination of the Israeli agriculture in the Sharon region, and will ease the pressure and distress in housing construction.

By resuming construction work in the greater Dan District, we could signal a direction for Israel to thrive, before any Palestinian growth. The Palestinians will gain, but not at our expense.

It does not matter whether this is the third or the fourth path. It is certain that the people will back it, no matter who leads it.

UN Envoy to Yemen Confers With Prince Hasan

JN1506122094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today received Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general to Yemen. The latest Yemeni developments and efforts to resolve the conflict were discussed during the meeting. Brahimi arrived in Amman at dawn today.

Speaking to reporters on his meeting with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Brahimi said:

[Brahimi] *First of all, I was very pleased to meet with his royal highness and to listen to what he said on the subject of Yemen because Jordan played a role in trying to bring views closer. We greatly benefited from his information and views. I thanked him and asked him to convey my greetings and best wishes to his majesty the king. I hope we will continue to be in contact with Jordan as is the case with other parties in order to follow up the issues we are undertaking.*

[Announcer] On the outcome of his meetings in Yemen, Brahimi said:

[Brahimi] *Regarding the outcome of our meetings, contacts and talks with the parties are continuing.*

[Announcer] Asked about the nature of his mission in Yemen and the conflicting parties' cooperation with the international efforts, Brahimi said:

[Brahimi] *We are doing two things. We are collecting fact-finding information for a report to the secretary general. In the meantime, and because we are working in a region to which we belong, we are trying to bring closer the views of brothers with whom we are linked by old ties. Sometimes, we make progress and sometimes we do not; but we are continuing talks. I told you two things. There is preparation for a report and this is very easy, but in the meantime we try not to be satisfied with this. We try to achieve the two basic points on which the whole world is unanimous and the Yemeni brothers do not object to them. These are the need to stop fighting and entrench the cease-fire and to start dialogue between them. We are considering the possibility of entrenching the cease-fire and opening the door for dialogue among brothers.*

Meets al-Hindawi, Departs

JN1506164294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Report by political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Excerpts] In a meeting with His Highness Prince Hasan, the regent, Lakhdar Brahimi reviewed UN efforts on Yemen and his contacts with the parties to the conflict. His highness the crown prince reiterated Jordan's position—that it supports the unity of Yemen and a cessation of hostilities.

Speaking to reporters, Brahimi praised Jordan's clear stand on and efforts for the sake of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Brahimi had earlier called on acting Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, who told him Jordan supports his efforts as a special UN envoy to Yemen to heal the rift and bring the ongoing hostilities there to a halt.

Mr. Brahimi arrived in Amman last night, and said at the airport that it is the UN's and his own role in Yemen to gather information and act as a conduit between the parties to the conflict.

[Begin recording] [Brahimi] We must build on the fact that the two sides have accepted the UN Security Council cease-fire resolution and that both are amenable to the principle of dialogue, although specifics like what, how, and when are yet to be agreed on. Now there is talk about a mechanism to be devised by the Yemenis to solidify the cease-fire. Each of the two sides has put forward ideas of its own. God willing, these will take shape on the ground. Now the brothers in the Republic of Yemen in Sanaa are talking about a joint committee with members other than Yemenis sitting on it. However, it remains for them to agree on specifics such as who is to be represented on it and how it is going to work. That is all there is for the time being.

[Dhiyab] Will Jordan and Oman, both of which were on the committee, still be there?

[Brahimi] I do not think either of the two Yemeni sides will object to that. Nor will they mind the presence of the Americans, the French, and the Russians. Whether there will be other parties may be a bone of contention. [end recording]

Lakhdar Brahimi has now left Amman. Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the UN representative in Jordan were on hand to bid him farewell.

Prince Hasan on Peace, Citizenship, 'Accusations'

JN1506163494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1133 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Speech by Crown Prince Hasan, regent, at Third Arab Youth Forum conference in Amman on 15 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I do not want here to start replying to certain accusations leveled at your Jordanian homeland. Some of these accusations may be made with good intentions, but most of the time they are made with bad intentions. Over the past 70 years, we have heard here and there descriptions of Jordan's role, the tasks it was entrusted to carry out when it was established, and how its role is threatened. We have been listening to

analyses that some believe are convincing and with which they themselves are convinced.

Brothers and sisters, Jordan has always replied to all this and more with its achievements and the pursuance of its course, believing that homelands are not shaken by injustices and that their marches are not affected by doubts and skepticism.

Here we are pursuing the march of good that was started by the great Jordanian Arab people early in this century, united, and in response to the program of the late founder grandfather—may God's mercy be upon him—confident in the soundness of our beliefs, and believing in the role we have to play. We have not changed and we will not alter our stand. We have adopted a centrist stand in economy and politics and we thank God that the memory of the Arab citizen records and remembers. It remembers that Jordan is committed to what it believes, and knows that the means it uses are in line with the results. Jordan has never made any secret step, and has proven to all those who watch it that it is the homeland that continues to abide by what is right and which continues to respond to the nation's aspirations.

The leader of this homeland, the head of the Al-Hashim family, King Husayn, has raised over the past few years a slogan embodying the revival of unity among us, the slogan of descents and origins. He has also raised the following slogan: Those who tamper with national unity are my foes until the day of reckoning.

Brothers, some whisper or explicitly say that Jordan is for the Jordanians. Some prepare studies from time to time about statistics on who is Jordanian and who is not, and who is from a non-Jordanian origin.

I find in your conference an opportunity to sincerely clarify this point to you, and to ask: Actually, who is a Jordanian? Does Jordan, in the geographic sense of the word, extend only from al-Ramthah at al-'Aqabah? Is raising the fabricated contradiction between the Jordanian in the east and the Palestinian in the west as innocent as it appears and without ulterior motives? Is there a feeling of dual citizenship that the state has not succeeded in tackling? [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, we are a sovereign homeland that seeks to attain its interests without fear. We deal with developments frankly and sincerely. We inform all the citizens of what takes place around us. We participated in the peace conference with a popular consensus that was achieved through the national congress. We act with the interest of our country and nation at heart without hesitation, and by scientifically studying every step we make. We do not disparage our national capabilities but work to enhance them. We also do not try to assume more than we can. Homelands are not forged with adventures and slogans. [applause]

Brothers, this is a homeland that is realistic and one that can do all that is needed to further enhance its status. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja', Others Indicted for Sham'un Assassination

NC1606105994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Munir Hunayn, the judge investigating the assassination of Dany Sham'un, has indicted Dr. Samir Ja'ja, leader of the Lebanese Forces [LF] party, and 12 other LF members of treason. According to article 549 of the criminal code, this offense carries the death penalty.

Judge Hunayn referred the suspects to the Judicial Council for trial.

Army Halts Clash Between Hizballah and Amal

NC1606104994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] According to our correspondent, a new incident has occurred between Amal Movement and Hizballah members in 'Adshit. The clash began after a Hizballah member harassed several Amal members. A Hizballah member and one Amal fighter were injured in the fighting, which was stopped by the Lebanese Army's intervention.

The Army arrested several members of the two parties. A state of tension continues in the village.

Released Iraqi Prisoners Handed Over to Army

NC1506172994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The UN forces this afternoon handed over to the Lebanese Army four Iraqis who had been taken prisoner by the Israeli occupation troops in Jordan [as heard].

At 1600 today, the Israeli occupation troops released four Iraqis, who were taken prisoners in the Jordan Valley four months ago, at Jisr al-Hamra' in Tyre. The Israeli soldiers untied the prisoners and ordered them to walk toward the liberated area. The released Iraqis sought the help of the Finnish contingents in al-Hamra'.

Following contacts the Finnish contingents made with the Lebanese authorities, the Iraqis were handed over to the Lebanese Army.

Opposition Calls For Transitional Government

PM1506151294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jun 94 p2

[Report by Artlette Khuri: "Paris Conference Concludes Meetings With Call for Transitional Government for Accord and Liberation"]

[Excerpts] Paris—The "Lebanese National Conference" [LNC] yesterday concluded its meetings in Paris with a number of resolutions providing for the formation of a Constituent Committee to draw up the conference's bylaws, a Board of Trustees to replace that committee as soon as the board is formed, and a National Assembly to act as the legislative body. It also recommended the formation of a transitional government.

The resolutions, which were drafted after a series of contacts on the sidelines of the conference and in close consultation with former prime minister General Michel 'Awn who kept on introducing amendments to the draft resolutions until late at night the day before yesterday, stated that the LNC "is a comprehensive united establishment embodying the patriotic trend working for Lebanon's freedom, independence, and full sovereignty over all its territory with its historical and internationally recognized borders." [passage omitted]

The conference defined its "struggle priorities" by setting a number of targets including "liberation" through "expansion of the struggle work at Lebanese and international levels by mobilizing Lebanese resources in Lebanon and the diaspora." It also called for the mobilization [tajyish] of the Lebanese world's resources "in order to influence public opinion and the decision-makers on Lebanese fateful issues, particularly the five permanent members of the Security Council, especially the United States, and also the Arab states which have no interest in sacrificing Lebanon's freedom, sovereignty, and independence."

The conference assigned to the Board of Trustees the task of pursuing dialogue and constitutional studies with prominent Lebanese and international experts to perceive and offer alternative options to the sectarian regime to pave the way for a political secular regime that would transfer power from the sects to the state and promulgate laws that would define the basic rights of the Lebanese citizen and offer a concept of a new structure for the state ensuring the executive independence of every authority as well as independent judicial control for every authority.

The conference asserted that the Arab-Israeli peace plan "is the most important diplomatic framework as far as Lebanon's fate is concerned and it would constitute a definite threat to Lebanon's sovereignty and independence if Lebanon went to the negotiations represented by a government whose decisions have been mortgaged and confiscated, a government which lacks legitimacy and public mandate." It renewed the call for "tripartite negotiations by Israel, Syria, and Lebanon."

It urged work for "solid and comprehensive Lebanese accord embracing the Lebanese leaderships which accept a negotiation plan for the full and absolute liberation of Lebanon, in the framework of a transitional government representing all parties which accept the principle of peace and work for it." The conference suggested that "the transitional government should, after completing the peace process and liberating Lebanon from every direct and indirect military and semimilitary presence, pass a new electoral law on which free parliamentary elections would be held under UN supervision, giving the right of voting and candidacy to all the Lebanese people at home and abroad." [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

At Least 26 Reportedly Killed in Fresh Fighting

BK1506160594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] In Afghanistan at least 26 people have been killed in fresh fighting between rival factions near Qandahar. The fighting which began on 12 June is continuing and the two sides are using heavy artillery and anti-aircraft guns against each other. Fifteen people who were injured in the fighting have been transferred to Red Cross hospitals in Quetta and Chaman. Meanwhile, 36 people have been injured in rocket attacks on Kabul. Pro-Rabbani forces have launched another air attack against the rival faction southeast of Kabul. However, no details of casualties were available.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Kabul

LD0906011994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Mr. 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran who has recently come to Kabul, in an interview with a Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent, said: We have no specific plan for the solution of Afghanistan's current problems. As a result of meetings and talks, however, we learned that all sides reject fighting, and this is a point that raises hope for the future.

Borujerdi said he met with esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan; esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud [chairman of the Kabul City Security Commission]; esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs; and esteemed Hekmatyar. He said he conducted useful talks with them on the current changes in the country.

The deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran also said his visit to Kabul has taken place on the basis of good neighborliness. He said: On my suggestion, Hekmatyar agreed to give electricity to Kabul for four hours a day. He expressed the hope that a solution could also be found for getting food to Kabul.

Answering another question, Mr. Borujerdi said: The economic cooperation agreements signed by both countries are being implemented, and cooperation is being carried out in the secured areas of the country. In response to another question, Borujerdi said: Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami can resolve its internal problems itself. I did meet with Mr. Mazari and Mr. Akbari. The problems of Hezb-e Wahdat Eslami, however, are this party's own problems. I am confident it will find [words indistinct] to resolve them. We are ready to help to resolve their problems [words indistinct].

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India

Kashmiri 'Militants' Vow To Intensify Struggle

BK1606020494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0104 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Srinagar, India, June 16 (AFP)—Outnumbered, outgunned and plagued by bloody factional feuding, Kashmiri Moslem militant groups are nonetheless planning to intensify their armed struggle against Indian rule.

Dismissing claims by the Indian army that they are on the run, a top Moslem militant commander warned that the guerrilla movement could enter a new phase if the eight million Kashmiris are not allowed to decide their own fate.

"The militancy begun in Kashmir will engulf all of India soon if it does not accede to our demands," said Majid Jehangir, the deputy commander of the Hezbul Mojahedin, the most powerful Kashmiri Moslem militant outfit.

"In Punjab, the Sikh militants will rise again," said the 33- year-old Jehangir, who also goes by the name Khalidul-Islam, as he touched a well-oiled AK-47 rifle at his feet. "They are reassembling and reorganizing."

"We will take the struggle out of the Kashmir Valley in stages," the burly, bearded guerrilla said at a hideout surrounded by gun-toting youths. "We have started the struggle in the Jammu region (of southern Kashmir) and we will be taking it to Ladakh (in the north-east) and then outside the state.

"The question now is how long can India hold on to Kashmir," said Jehangir, whose Hezbul Mojahedin favors merging India's only Moslem-majority state with Islamic Pakistan. "The expenditure on Kashmir is likely to ruin India."

Jehangir claimed that his group had obtained U.S.-made Stinger surface-to-air missiles, hundreds of which were supplied to the Afghan mujahedeen during their war against the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, and many of which today remain unaccounted for.

"We have got three Stinger missiles," he said, "and more are coming."

He refused to disclose the source of the missiles but a number of former Afghan mujahedeen have made their way to Kashmir to fight alongside local Moslems in what they consider a "jihad," or holy war.

"Militants from 46 Moslem countries have come to Kashmir to help us ... There is no problem in recruiting boys these days," said Jehangir, who figures near the top of the army's most-wanted list and who served three years in prison for secessionist activities before rising to the number two post in the Hezbul Mojahedin.

There are dozens of militant organizations operating in the Moslem-majority Kashmir Valley but they are split between those favoring independence and those seeking a merger with Pakistan.

Clashes between factions are common and have left nearly 400 people dead during the past three years, according to the Indian authorities.

Yasin Malik, leader of the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the Hezbul Mojahedin's chief rival for popularity, has accused the pro-Pakistan group of targeting him on two occasions this month.

Jehangir denied the charge, and played down the importance of rifts between the groups. "This is guerrilla warfare and the more outfits there are, the more attacks there will be against the enemy," he said.

He said his organization was open to a proposal by Malik to merge the various outfits into two major groups—those favouring independence and those favoring a merger with Pakistan.

"If other militant groups agree to his proposal than we will also accept it," he said.

India has poured tens of thousands of troops into Kashmir in a bid to crush the Moslem insurgency, which it charges is fueled by arms supplied by Pakistan.

It has consistently rejected Kashmiri Moslem demands to hold a plebiscite to decide whether to remain part of India or to join neighbouring Pakistan, which also claims the Himalayan territory.

Nearly 10,000 people have lost their lives in Kashmir since 1989, and the violence has left its tourism-driven economy in ruins.

BJP Leader Addresses Party's National Council

BK1506144194 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 11 Jun 94 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Baroda 10 June. Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] President L.K. Advani has said that India should develop nuclear weapons and should not come under pressure from the United States or world public opinion for the sake of the country's unity, security, and integrity.

Addressing the three-day convention of the party's National Council, Advani said that the United States speaks about nuclear nonproliferation with the aim of having India subcontract its national security to it and getting unhindered access to Indian markets.

About 3,000 delegates from throughout the country are attending the BJP National Council convention.

Advani said that Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has come under U.S. pressure. The national interests are being compromised to please the United States. Commenting on the government's statement in parliament on 'Prithvi' and 'Agni' missiles, he said our self-prestige has come down to the extent that we rush into apologizing at each hint of any U.S. displeasure. He asked: "Whether India should surrender its security interest to attract foreign investments?"

He spoke about the threats posed to India by the increasing U.S. tilt toward Pakistan. He also cautioned the country against the compromising stand of the Narasimha Rao government, which is affecting national socioeconomic interests. He called for the Rao government to be toppled. He said that the Narasimha Rao government is ignoring the U.S. steps favoring Pakistan's nuclear efforts and according the Most Favored Nation status to China. It is a result of the government's wrong policies that Pakistan through the Inter-Services Intelligence's inspired terrorist violence and bomb explosions is waging a proxy war. He added that these Pakistan efforts are part of other wider designs, which can be much more dangerous, especially if the government's response remains weak.

Advani said that foreign investment and world opinion have importance, but to base decisions alone on them is tantamount to abandoning the national interests. Nobody could imagine that this country of 900 million would go begging in front of others. He said India should act courageously and go nuclear. China and Pakistan are already nuclear powers. In view of this, India should not hesitate to acquire this capability. This will also change the outlook of other countries toward India and we will get our due place in the world.

Referring to Rao's recent visit to the United States, Advani said he had abandoned national interests to please the United States. Even the 'Prithvi' missile tests had been postponed and the prime minister had not felt even slightly embarrassed while announcing this decision. Advani said that the most important issue at this time is to acquire a respectable status for India in the comity of nations, but the Narasimha Rao government is so keen to weaken the country that any country is able to damn it.

Advani said the present government has not only failed to deal with the international situation, it has also not resolved domestic issues. The Kashmir situation is progressively deteriorating. There is no let up in acts of terrorism and even Jammu has become their target. He said that, due to the lack of right policies and a unified command, the government has failed to deal with terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his speech, Advani mainly targeted the prime minister and his three-years of administration. He said he himself felt embarrassed, recalling that he had once compared Narasimha Rao to the late Lalbahadur Shastri.

Advani described it as very unfortunate that, by raising a bogey of isolation, the government on the one hand is ruining the country's economy, and on the other its zeal for increasing foreign investment is even endangering national security. The indiscriminate entry of multinationals in the name of liberalization has threatened the

very existence of the domestic industry. Violence, criminality, and corruption have touched extreme limits and scandal is synonymous with this government. Advani said the government is bringing forward the so-called electoral reforms bill to clip the wings of Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan, who is trying to root out corruption, and to halt the growing strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The party will oppose it at every stage. He said attempts made to convert Rao's minority government into a majority one are not hidden from anyone. Rao first divided Janata Dal, Telugu Desam, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, and Shiv Sena and later admitted the dissident groups into the Congress-I by paying an 'appropriate price'. Advani said Rao even unsuccessfully tried to divide the Congress-I ally Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham.

The BJP president said that, as well as encouraging defections, the present government also ranks first in corruption. This government, which created all sorts of obstacles for a probe into the Bofors gun deal, has also not taken action against those involved in the securities scam.

He said he considers Narasimha Rao and the Congress-I responsible for the current round of ethnic war and anarchy in Uttar Pradesh following the assumption of power by the Bahujan Samaj Party-Samajwadi Party coalition in the state; because of the Congress-I support the state government has been formed there.

Referring to the [Temple-Mosque] Ayodhya issue, the BJP president said the construction of a Ram temple at the birthplace of Lord Ram has become inevitable. This has been accepted even by those who earlier opposed it. No one now talks about reconstructing the Babri Mosque. Impressions have been created for the last few months that the temple will be constructed by a government trust and not by the Ramjanambhoomi trust, but the people will never allow this to happen. [passage omitted]

BJP Reaffirms Economic Development Policy

BK1606082594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] Baroda—The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has reaffirmed that the swadeshi [national] approach to development is the bedrock of its economic policy, rejecting what the party has called the Rao-Manmohan Singh model.

The economic resolution adopted by BJP's national council on Saturday demanded that the present economic policy be replaced with a swadeshi model based on Mahatma Gandhi's Ram Rajya and Deen Dayal Upadhya's Integral Humanism.

The resolution was moved by Satish Agarwal, former Union Minister of State for Finance and a member of BJP's economic cell, and seconded by the party general secretary M. Venkaia Naidu.

Concerned over the sugar muddle which hit the country recently, BJP demanded the resignation of Union Minister of State for Food Kalpanath Rai and expeditious completion of the enquiry by Public Accounts Committee into the scandal.

At Baroda, BJP took special care to see that the confusion prevailing inside and outside the party over the swadeshi approach was clarified once and for all to set at rest all speculation about the party being divided on the GATT versus swadeshi issue. The party had failed to put these issues in the right perspective at the Hyderabad national executive less than three months ago.

Party leaders had no hesitation in admitting that their failure to clarify the concept of swadeshi had led to confusion among the rank and file. That was sought to be corrected as BJP president L. K. Advani put it in his speech.

Swadeshi is not merely an issue of goods produced in India versus foreign goods. It was an all-embracing philosophy which has "civilisational, political and economic dimensions, " he said.

The economic policy pursued by Congress which was contrary to the spirit of swadeshi in effect meant "wholesale and shameless capitulation before foreign vested interests, the lowest point of which was the signing of the GATT treaty at Marrakesh," the economic resolution noted.

The Rao-Manmohan Singh model of development was based on three legs: Fiscal stabilisation, economic restructuring, foreign investment and globalisation. BJP felt the government had placed "misplaced faith" in foreign investment and globalisation as a "panacea for all our ills."

BJP accused the government of subserving the needs of foreign vested interests in order to attract foreign investment. The government had made "shoddy compromises" affecting economic sovereignty and security interests of the country in relentless pursuit of globalisation.

The resolution clarified that the BJP was not against the entry of foreign capital and technology in hi-tech areas. But it cautioned that even here it should not be to the exclusion of Indian companies.

The net result of Rao Government's economic policy was that prices of essential commodities had risen by 50 per cent in the last three years, unemployment was on the rise, there was stagnation in agriculture and recession in industrial growth, the country had fallen into a debt trap and corruption and scandals had become the order of the day.

The resolution said the performance of the government on the economic front was "dismal".

Minister's Comments Spur Doubts About GATT

BK1406130794 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 10 Jun 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Agonising After the Event"]

[Text] The moaning and groaning over the GATT agreement is now kept going, not so much by the political parties opposed to it as by the spokespersons of the Government which is the signatory of the Final Act. The Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, who had been in the forefront of doughty defenders and did much to put heart into doubters, is himself raising questions which ought to have been thought through before the event, rather than being debated after it. Inaugurating a workshop in New Delhi on 'Impact of GATT Accord on Indian Economy', Mr. Mukherjee has called for an extensive debate on several issues going into the very heart of the matter. The questions he listed were: whether there would be efficient reallocation of world resources as a result of the pact; whether a rule-based multilateral trading system like the World Trade Organisation (WTO) would really provide a level playing field for all the countries to compete on fair ground: whether the 10-year transitional period should be rolled over or rolled back; whether the agreement would expose the Indian small-scale sector to unfair or uneven competition; and whether the new trade blocs such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) would in any way affect the multilateral trading system.

It would be readily seen that each and every issue that Mr. Mukherjee has posed has a vital bearing on the entire rationale and relevance of the Uruguay Round, and indeed on the very justifiability or otherwise of India's participation in it. As such, one would have presumed that extensive studies would have been undertaken by the Government on all the aspects now brought up by Mr. Mukherjee and the official negotiators would have fully armed themselves with the necessary conclusions to enable them to protect India's interests in the course of the Round. It is really puzzling that Mr. Mukherjee should wring his hands and pass the buck at this belated stage to the general public to debate these issues and thus take himself off the hook. Assuming that (but perish the thought), the debate he seeks shows the Government's decision to subscribe to the Final Act in a damaging light, it would only mean that instead of doing its homework while there was still time, the Government is casting about for excuses for locking the stables after the horses have been stolen.

Equally inexplicably, Mr. Mukherjee throws the onus on the public to debate and advise what legislative changes are needed for incorporating the GATT requirements and provisions within the Indian legislative framework. Specifically, he wants to know whether a law on plant breeders' rights should take the route of extending the patents or of a sui generis system or of both. As regards the lines along which India's laws should be brought in conformity with the Final Act, whether by fresh enactments or by amendments, one would have thought that the whole leviathan of a Law Ministry would have put Mr. Mukherjee wise by this time. And as for plant breeders' rights, Mr. Mukherjee's poser is yet another sad reminder of the Government's policy of preferring the bliss of ignorance to the folly of being wise about what happens right under its nose.

As long ago as March 1990, the Standing Policy Planning Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research had gone in great depth into the nature and scope of safeguards for gene patenting and plant breeders' rights and after a comparative analysis of laws in other countries, made detailed recommendations for a sui generis system. In January 1994, following a wide-ranging, four-day, interdisciplinary dialogue, the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation at Madras, had forwarded a comprehensive sui generis draft of a Plant Varieties Recognition and Protection Act. Mr. Mukherjee's colleague in the Central Cabinet, Mr. Balram Jakhar, had heartily welcomed the contribution of the dialogue towards formulating an effective sui generis system. Thus, Mr. Mykherjee already has all the answers on this specific question. All he needs is to ensure that the right hand of the Government knows what the left hand is doing.

The one major policy issue that is still remaining, unresolved is the one whereby the US in particular, is insistent on linking trade with social issues such as labour standards, environment, human rights and the like. Mr. Mukherjee is right in warning that this will lead to needless discussion and confusion, and distract the WTO from substantive trade issues which should be its prime concern, especially at a stage when the foundation of a new world trade order is being laid. Ways of preparing an enduring design and architecture of that edifice, rather than frills like the colour of the ink making up the drawings, should consume all its attention.

Article Praises Prithvi, Describes Capabilities

BK0806150794 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Jun 94 pp 1, 12

[Article by Avinash Singh: "It's sleek, but punch is deadly"]

[Text] New Delhi, June 4

A bolt from the blue, sleek and deadly;
It knows no friends, only enemies;
A weapon of today; it shall remain,
The weapon of tomorrow

India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), aimed at the country emerging as a missile power not dependent on outside technology, got a major boost today when the third generation surface-to-surface medium-range Bharal Dynamics Limited (Hyderabad) product Prithvi hit its pre-determined

target at Wheelers Island 75 km from the point of its take-off at Chandipur-on-sea in Orissa.

This was the 12th successful trial in 13 attempts since the first silver-white 40-250 km range missile was test-fired from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh in February 1988. *The weekend's achievement is a watershed as it was the* first user's trial, to be followed by another on Monday and more under battlefield conditions in land firing ranges in other parts of the country soon.

While Saturday's glitch-free launch from a movable-launcher established India's credentials as a missile power that can deliver a range of such weapons of tomorrow anytime. The trial should also set the speculation at rest that India was bowing to any pressure to abandon its missile programme under any external pressure.

Early this year India had accomplished its "mission" as far as perfecting its capability in the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) was concerned by successful test-launching of 1,200-2,500 km range Agni.

Prithvi's trial came close on the heels of the announcement that low-level quick reaction Trishul and medium-range high-altitude Akash missile are ready for induction in the Army after their user's trials are through. The 'fire and forget' anti-tank missile Nag has already made its prowess known to many.

If Agni was the first Indian missile in the true ballistic class, Prithvi, one of the most advanced projectiles, is India's own version of Scud. While Scud follows ballistic trajectory, Prithvi's flight throughout is controlled by an on board computer. The last Prithvi trial was conducted on May 30 1993.

Prithvi definitely gives India a better option to attack static targets, important defence installations, air defence sites, ordnance factories and large army maintenance areas which should fall in it range.

Earlier, in two Indo-Pak wars these installations were attacked by Indian Air Force bombers. In today's advanced world of early airborne warning system (AWACS), and improved radar systems, it is easy to detect an enemy plane and neutralise it.

However, in case of theatre ballistic missile, that Prithvi is, it is difficult to detect it on radar and also find out its trajectory and impact point because of its supersonic speed and limited flight time.

Covering of 75 kms in four minutes time today was a pointer to the fact that very few weapons could be effectively used against an astra like this. It certainly is an offensive weapon with clinical. [sentence as published]

To quote an Indian expert: "Prithvi is extremely accurate (its circular error probability—CEP—is lower than most missiles of its class) and four of them can devastate front of an attacking army effectively blunting an enemy attack on the ground."

As per some of the international defence journals, Prithvi can carry several types of warhead like high explosive, prefragmented, cluster munitions and fuel air explosives (FAE). The last mentioned can cause four time the damage done by an ordinary nuclear bomb. These journals insist that Prithvi has the capability to carry nuclear and chemical warheads too, a factor on which Indian scientists are tight-lipped.

Prof Abdul Kalam, who along with Maj. Gen. V.J. Sundram, is the brain behind the Prithvi project has, however, said more than once that this missile can carry five types of conventional warheads only.

Prithvi, which is being projected as the biggest threat to Pakistan's security and the one that could disturb the arms balance in the Indian sub-continent according to Americans, interestingly has most of its components locally made. Only five to ten per cent of its parts like precision sensors microprocessors and special alloy used for its silver-white exterior are imported.

Among the munitions developed for Prithvi are the deadly cluster bomblets, which are released while the missile is still in the air. Each of these bomblets is designed to piece armour or shower lethal mental fragments, a capability that is proving to be Pakistan's anethema.

The 1.1 m diameter battlefield tactical missile can come in two versions—the 250 km range type with 500 kg payload and 150 km range projectile with 1,000 kg payload. The target shooting range could be increased or decreased by altering the angles.

The only failure in 13 trials so far has been when the missile was commanded to do a 15 degree roll. Perfection has since been in this category too.

'Architect' of Missile Program Profiled

BK0806154094 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Jun 94 p 12

[Text] New Delhi, June 4—The man behind the success of Prithvi is 62-year-old Dr Avul Pakir Jainalaben Abdul Kalam who believes that India should acquire deadly missiles that will put the fear of God into its enemies.

Towards that goal he has been working relentlessly for the past 15 years. According to his friends, Dr Kalam's only dream is to make India a respected, if not feared, world power by the end of this century.

Dr Kalam, an aeronautical engineer and bachelor, has been the architect of India's integrated guided missile development programme and the most important achievement of the programme is that it is the first

successful endeavour in the country to harness indigenous talent to design and develop state-of-the-art tactical and strategic missiles.

Of the five families of missiles that he committed himself to develop and deliver four surface-to-surface missile Prithvi, medium range ground-to-air Akash, short-range quick reaction SAM [surface-to-air missile] Trishul and the Anti-tank guided missile Nag are close to production stage.

His most ambitious project, Agni, the intermediate range ballistic missile, has already completed three tests. For him Agni is truly like a child. The bachelor Tamilian in his poem, "Ancestors' desire" tells about his parents, now dead, wanted him to marry and have the children and how he could not satisfy their desire.

But after Agni was successfully launched, Dr Kalam wrote: "My parents appeared in my subconscious mind. Smiles on their faces, tear filled eyes, blessing me with grace
For their grandson 'Agni', the symbol of strength
And a continuity of their name."

In another poem "From Tipu's rockets to Agni," Dr Kalam said "I was walking on the historical shores (of Cauvery) in Srirangapatnam where two battles took place in the 18th century. India made the world's first war rocket. These rockets are in the British War Museum. Small tube with gun powder, tiny nozzle and warhead. The use of these rockets defeated the Britishers. History repeats."

Dr Kalam was born in the temple town of Rameshwaram six decades ago. Memories of doting family and a secure childhood explain the serenity on his face. Perhaps the only unpleasant event of his childhood he can remember was when he was separated from his brahmin friend by a new teacher who had his own ideas about social harmony. Dr Kalam who always sat on the front bench with his friend, was ordered to sit in the back row of the classroom.

"Even today, I am living with the image imprinted on my subconscious mind, of Ramaswamy crying in the class when I changed my seat to the rear row", writes Dr Kalam in his annotation to his book of poems "My journey".

Dr Kalam, the Agni man, says the benefits of defence research should also be used for humanitarian work, particularly in the field of medicine. He has founded a society for biomedical technology for this purpose.

After studies, Dr Kalam got his first job as an aeronautical engineer with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited at Kanpur. He then joined with Satellite Launch Vehicle Programme, and led the team that made Rohini and Menaka, those tiny rockets which aroused scepticism even derision. But the two rockets instilled pride—and passion—in Dr Kalam. No longer did Indian payloads need to ride on the French-built Centaur rockets. The success convinced him that with will and even without money, Indian science and technology could attain dizzy heights.

Commentary Justifies Nuclear Option Policy

BK1506121494 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Commentary by T.V. Venkatachalam]

[Text] India's policy of developing nuclear energy for purely peaceful purposes remains without any change. When the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in his address at the All-India Congress Committee [AICC] session a few days ago ruled out India unilaterally giving up the nuclear option, he was only restating the existing policy. The reiteration of the policy, however, is important because of pressures coming from two contrary directions.

On the one hand, the weapon-possessing members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], particularly the United States, want India to join the NPT, renouncing the right to make the nuclear weapons forever. Their conception of a strange club in which the haves and have-nots ever remain separate is, of course, not acceptable to India. The NPT is due to come up for review next year. If and when the review takes place, India's attempt will be to make the treaty a nondiscriminatory instrument to promote global nuclear disarmament.

The other source of pressure on our nuclear policy is from developments in the neighborhood. Pakistan has not made a secret of its efforts to acquire the nuclear weapon. In fact, this development is made use of by the United States as an argument to persuade India into giving up its option to use nuclear energy for defense purposes. By coincidence, about the time of the AICC session came also the news of China having carried out another nuclear test. The NPT does not come in the way of the five weapon haves, who are permanent members of the UN Security Council, from adding to their nuclear arsenals. It is not surprising that the disturbing international environment should persuade even sections within the country to demand a change of the policy of purely peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The prime minister's statement indicated that the government will not give in to such demands. The prime minister underlined the fact that the country has been having a consistent policy on the nuclear issue. The first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and defense minister, Mr. V.K. Krishnamenon, had clearly stated this policy at a Congress session in 1953, much before India carried out the implosion experiments. This policy remains valid.

The prime minister made it clear that the government would watch the trends and developments on global disarmament in exercising its options. He said, quote: We have the choice of making or not making the bomb. I do not want to leave that option. Unquote. In this

connection, it should be noted that the nuclear situation today is complex. While some countries are in possession of the nuclear bomb, some others are in the process of acquiring it. But a large number of countries do not have any nuclear capability at all. The developing global trend has to be watched. To those who advocate the manufacture of the nuclear weapon, Mr. Rao aptly replied that if we make the bomb and the world tomorrow decides in favor of total disarmament, then what will we do?

The thrust of India's international policy is to promote disarmament and outlaw the use of nuclear weapons by all nations. India had put forward concrete suggestions for nuclear disarmament at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1988. The stage-by-stage disarmament proposal presented to the UN by Rajiv Gandhi called for the conclusion of a new global treaty, eliminating all nuclear weapons by the year 2010 to replace the NPT. Even by the end of the first stage in 1994, much more was expected of the nuclear weapon powers in the sphere of disarmament than what has been achieved so far.

Mr. Narasimha Rao had followed it up with the demand for urgent measures to spread nuclear nonproliferation at the Security Council summit held in 1992. The conference of Nonaligned foreign ministers at their meeting in Cairo recently, acting on a proposal made by India, called for a special session of the UN General Assembly for a comprehensive assessment on the progress toward disarmament. The directions of India's policies are clear. We are for peace and we cannot accept nuclear subservience.

Iran

Velayati on Gaza-Jericho, Yemen, Bosnia

LD1506202194 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Bonn, June 15, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in Frankfurt today that Iran will continue its efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the region.

Velayati who is here on an official visit said at a press conference here today that Iran will also follow its policy to resolve the current crises in the world through boosting regional and international cooperation.

Asked about Gaza-Jericho compromise accord, Velayati said, "We believe that the current peace process was not in the interest of Palestinian nation and peace and security in the region. Palestine belongs to all the Palestinians on that land and an individual or a certain group can not impose their views upon the Palestinian people."

Despite the declared Palestinian control" over Gaza and Jericho, the problems of Palestine still remain to be solved, he said.

More than 200 Jewish townships exist in the region, the problem of Qods [Jerusalem], Palestinian refugees and Golan Heights remain unresolved and the southern Lebanon is still under zionist occupation, he said.

On the date of his upcoming visit to Baghdad, Velayati said that an expert delegation will go to Baghdad and will designate the date for the visit of the two countries' foreign ministers.

He described the United Nations Resolution 598 as the ground for consolidation of Tehran-Baghdad relations and said that the implementation of the United Nations resolution positive steps [as received] would be taken to strengthen bilateral relations.

Asked about Iran's view on the developments in Yemen, Velayati said that Iran's policy favors unity and territorial integrity of Yemen. "We believe that the crisis in Yemen can be resolved through peaceful means," velayati Said.

On Iran's support for Bosnian Muslims, he said that despite some claims, Iran has not dispatched forces to interfere in Bosnian affairs directly. Instead it has repeatedly announced its readiness to dispatch 10,000-strong peacekeeping force to Bosnia under the banner of the Nia Oionsxmh [as received]. Answering a question on the export of the revolution, Velayati said that Iran was against the so called forcible export of the revolution, calling the allegation that Iran is using force to promote its revolution as "the fabrication of the western propaganda machine."

The Islamic Republic of Iran regards strengthening of regional cooperation as an important principle and makes efforts to expand activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the organization of the Caspian Sea Littoral States to stregthen ties among neighbouring states, he said.

Velayati described his talks with German officials as positive and said that the talks opened a new chapter in bilateral relations in the framework of ECO and the European Union (EU).

Velayati Departs Germany for Switzerland

LD1506211294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Following the conclusion of his three-day visit to Germany, Foreign Minister Velayati stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its efforts toward strengthening regional peace and stability as well as increasing regional and international cooperation to end existing crises in the world.

In interviews with SPIEGEL and FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, Velayati said that a new chapter has opened in relations between Iran and Germany.

Our country's foreign minister ended his visit to Germany on Wednesday evening and set off for Switzerland to take part in the international seminar of the World Forum Foundation.

Va'ezi Rejects Talk of Tehran-Ankara Rivalry

LD1506203694 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA—Deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi here Wednesday brushed aside the view that there was rivalry between Iran and Turkey in the region.

Va'ezi, who was speaking to Turkish Foreign Ministry Director General for Caucasus and Balkans affairs, (Omer Ersun), said Tehran has always welcomed cooperation with Ankara in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

He saw adoption of comprehensive measures and cooperation among all regional countries as key factors for peace and regretted that efforts made so far to peacefully settle crises have proved futile.

Va'ezi welcomed consultations between Iranian and Turkish officials on issues concerning the Cacasus and Central Asia and said Tehran and Ankara could help restore peace and stability in the region especially in the Caucasus in view of their common stands. He warned that continuation of crisis in the region would lead to escalation of tension, and underscored joint efforts by regional states to end the ongoing crisis.

(Ersun) in return referred to "bright" prospects of Tehran-Ankara political cooperation, and hoped that it would help restore peace and stability in the region.

Besharati's Visit to Ankara Viewed

NC1506175394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Besharati's Visit to Turkey"]

[Text] Interior Minister 'Ali Besharati-Jahromi is in Ankara on a three-day official visit. His objective is to hold talks on regional and international developments and political and security matters between Iran and Turkey. In a statement after his meeting with Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, 'Ali Besharati-Jahromi recalled the favorable relations between the two countries and stressed that neither a security nor a political problem exists between Iran and Turkey. He also described the cooperation between the two countries on the struggle against terrorism as a positive outcome of the uninterrupted contacts between the officials in Tehran and Ankara and outlined Iran's uneasiness over the activities of certain anti-Iran elements in Turkey.

The situation in northern Iraq and the bearing it has on security in the region was a focus of the talks 'Ali Besharati-Jahromi had with Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

Iran and Turkey have established strong relations because of their historic, religious, and cultural ties as two neighboring countries. The cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization is a factor that enhances their relations. Meanwhile, the meetings of the Turkey-Iran Joint Security Committee in Tehran and Ankara constitute one of the results of the important agreements the two countries have reached to promote their cooperation on security matters. Iran's approach is based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of foreign countries.

'Ali Besharati-Jahromi stressed that the friendly relations between Iran and Turkey are motivated by the concept of good-neighborly relations and noted that Turkey's enemies have no place in Iran. He also stressed that Tehran is well aware of Turkey's problems and regards Turkey's foes as its own enemies.

The Iranian and Turkish officials had discussed the question of peace and security on the common border between Iran and Turkey and the developments in northern Iraq several times in the past. Tehran and Ankara support the maintenance of Iraq's territorial integrity. In view of that, the two sides call for an urgent solution to the problems in northern Iraq. The continuation of the clashes will further complicate the situation and create instability in that region. A tripartite meeting will be held on the matter in Damascus between Iran, Turkey, and Syria. The outcome of the assessment of the developments in Iraq will be very important.

Meanwhile, matters concerning relations between Iran and Turkey will be discussed once again when President Suleyman Demirel visits Tehran in July. The two countries are expected to draw up an effective plan to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in the near future.

Commentary Views Security Ties With Turkey

LD1406115194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, the interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, heading a high-ranking delegation, arrived in Ankara yesterday for a two-day official visit. Mr. Besharati announced the agenda of the talks as being the expansion of security, military, political, and parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

The interior minister's visit to Turkey is within the framework of the visits that have taken place during the recent decade of ties between the two countries. The

heads of the two countries' executive authorities exchange visits to Tehran and Ankara regularly in order to study the possibilities for expanding political and economic relations. The last such visit was First Vice President Hasan Habibi's trip to Ankara in December of 1993, and President Suleyman Demirel is to visit Tehran in the near future.

Iran and Turkey are the founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, and are regarded as active members of the Islamic Conference Organization vis-a-vis the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue. Tehran and Ankara cooperate in technical, economic, and transportation fields as well as on regional issues. The volume of trade between the two countries was about $600 million last year, and the amount of goods transported from Turkish ports to Iran reached a figure of 200,000 tonnes. At the same time, security and military cooperation to establish order and tranquility along the borders is considered one of the important aspects of the two countries' relations.

Iran and Turkey share a common border of 511 km. Two years ago, a joint security committee was set up to prevent infiltration of elements that threaten the two countries' security. On the basis of the agreements reached, the two countries will not permit any illegal activity on their territory that threatens the other country's security. At present, the interior ministers of Iran and Turkey; officials of the security cooperation committee; the border provinces' governors general; and the governors, military, and security officers stationed along the two countries' borders are in direct contact. These initiatives on the whole and the existing mutual goodwill is assisting the two countries in their war against terrorism and drug trafficking. It is hoped that in the wake of Mr. Besharati's visit to Ankara, further steps will be taken to continue and expand cooperation.

Delegation's Visit to Iraq Postponed

NC1506170294 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 15 June 94

[Text] Tehran, June 15 (AFP)—A visit by an Iranian delegation to Iraq, which was due to take place on June 11, has been indefinitely postponed, a reliable source said Wednesday.

The source did not say which side had postponed the visit or why it had been delayed, but added that it was not caused by political problems but by timetabling difficulties.

The delegation had been expected in Baghdad on Saturday to prepare a visit in July by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who would be the first Iranian top official to visit Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war.

The sources said the delegation was to leave for Iraq "in the near future," but did not give a specific date.

The decision to postpone the visit appears to have been taken at the last minutes as Velayati confirmed his visit to Iraq last Friday and the daily Kayhan International said Sunday that the delegation had already left for Baghdad.

The last visit by an Iraqi delegation to Iran was also postponed from November to February, following a "decision by Baghdad."

Last October, Iran and Iraq resumed talks, broken after the Gulf war, to normalise ties, five years after the end of 1980-1988 war.

However, little headway has been made as Tehran and Baghdad are sharply divided over a number of issues, mainly the fate of thousands of prisoners of war from both countries.

Velayati, who met his Iraqi counterpart Sa'id al-Sahhaf on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement conference in Cairo earlier this month, has warned that "more time is needed to restore confidence."

President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has for his part urged caution over any chances of success from Velayati's visit.

"There are too many subjects to be discussed," he said last week. "If the results of negotiations are acceptable, they could open way towards improving ties."

Rebel Radio on Regime's 'Insecurity'

NC1506125094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Officials of the Islamic Republic have repeatedly commented on the insecurity of the regime and have said that security should continue to be a major issue. Where does the regime's concern come from and what plans are officials preparing to establish security?

Obviously the Islamic Republic is under intense pressure both at home and abroad. At home the people's dissatisfaction with the regime is increasing more each day. The outcome of the policy for economic adjustment and some minimal economic steps have only led to more bottlenecks in the lives and livelihood of millions of Iranians. The policy of economic adjustment that the regime has adopted has led to the dismissal and unemployment of tens of thousands of civil servants, workers, and teachers and more and more people are without jobs in our country. Thus, the lives of the poor and the destitute are becoming more difficult each day.

At a time when inflation is soaring, undoubtedly the disgruntled people will not sit idle but will demand work, bread, health and hygiene, education, and other needs. This is one of the main roots of the insecurity that the regime speaks of. But the regime, which is unable to

ensure either the people's livelihood or work, is preparing to fill the empty stomachs and protesting throats of these people with [word indistinct].

Meanwhile, the regime's failure to confront the so-called cultural onslaught by the West is yet another issue that has increased its concern and feeling of insecurity. However, the regime's officials have not only not learned a lesson from their defeats but they want to continue their blind opposition to the civilized world and its achievements.

The rulers of Qom and Tehran have also realized that the preservation and safeguarding of an ideological regime like that of the Islamic Republic cannot be possible without crushing freedom and democracy, violating human rights, and interfering in the people's private lives. They also know that the people oppose this policy of the regime and will fight it.

The clerical regime, which is politically, culturally, and philosophically unable to satisfy the people, will undoubtedly resort to suppression, the gallows, torture, and arrests to advance its policies and to crush the people's freedom-seeking ideas. Thus, the regime's inability to meet the people's daily needs, the deepening of the economic crisis, the fall of cultural policy into an impasse, the isolation on an international level, and the pressures of public opinion have all helped to instill these feelings of concern and insecurity. Because of all these elements, the regime has deployed all of the country's potential to ensure its security and to preserve itself.

The most important part of this security plan is the centralization of the suppressive organs, the strengthening of the (?ties) among them, and the elevation of the combat ability of its forces. It is not without reason that the regime has assigned Besharati the responsibility of heading the Islamic Republic's [Supreme National] Security Council in addition to his position as interior minister. Also, the organizing of its suppressive forces and of its war machinery is another part of the regime's security plan. The regime now intends to further organize its suppressive forces and to increase their strength in crushing operations.

Seyfollahi, commander of the Islamic Republic's law-enforcement forces, says that he needs 300,000 fresh forces to remove the existing problems. In addition, among the regime's other steps are the return to the scene of the Resistance Basij and the formation of another body known as executive officers for judicial affairs to help in the implementation of the policy of doing good and shunning evil in a bid to safeguard the security of the Islamic Republic.

In addition to all these, the regime has also issued orders on the formation of a rapid deployment force to further crush Kordestan. Efforts to weaken the opposition's activities also form another part of the regime's policy. The signing of joint accords with Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to plot against the Kordestan movement and the Baluchi combatants is the most convincing proof of this.

In addition to all of this, the Islamic Republic is also trying to limit the sphere of activities of the [Iranian] opposition in Europe. To achieve this, it inflicts pressures on it on the one hand and grants concessions to it on the other. [sentence as heard] Clearly, the assassination of regime opponents is the most outstanding aspect of the regime's security policy abroad.

In short, the regime continues to pursue the policy of suppression and violence to safeguard its security. But the question is: Can this policy have a favorable outcome for the regime? We think not because the methods that the Islamic Republic has adopted and tested throughout its existence have all been futile and have not borne any favorable results. Now that the regime is facing an impasse because of its clerical policies, thoughts, and culture the only thing that it can use is suppression and violence. Since it does not know any other language but that of suppression and arms, naturally we should expect it to speak in this language. However, sooner or later it will be proven that the regime's suppressive machinery will not always be useful vis-a-vis the people's determination and uprisings and that finally it will have to kneel down in front of the people and of justice.

Ministry To End Production Tax Exemptions

LD1506185094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Tax relief for 60 percent of the country's economic activities will be cancelled in the second five-year economic development plan.

According to Economics and Finance Minister Morteza Mohammad-Khan the above mentioned activities currently include water, electricity, gas, communications, oil, and other sectors currently tax exempt. All such tax exemptions are to be scrapped according to the second development plan.

Mohammad-Khan stated that oil revenue constitutes the country's highest source of income. He said: Tax incomes are very low in comparison; during the past five years the country's economy has moved from a disorderly and irregular situation to a disciplined, steady, and structured economy.

Pakistan

Spokesman: Contact With UN on Kashmir Incidents

BK1506155394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Pakistan has established contact with the United Nations on increasing aggressive Indian activities along the Line of Control [LOC] in Kashmir. A Foreign Office

spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan condemns India's aggressive action against UN observers deployed along the LOC. The spokesman also expressed concern over the statement by Rajesh Pilot, Indian minister of state for external affairs [position as heard], about the use of helicopter gunships against the Kashmiri people in the occupied territories. The spokesman said that it might escalate to a dangerous level the Indian campaign of atrocities in occupied Kashmir. He said that India should not forget what happened in Afghanistan.

Islamabad Carefully Watching U.S-DPRK 'Standoff'

BK1506143894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] In Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman, while replying to a question on U.S.-North Korea standoff, told newsmen that Pakistan as a member of the UN Security Council is watching the situation carefully. Pakistan, he said, has always upheld the sanctity of international agreements, but at the same time it emphasized that sovereignty of nations and dignity of states must always be an important factor in international diplomacy.

Spokesman on British Hostages in Kashmir

BK0806162194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Pakistan has deeply regretted the kidnapping of two British nationals from occupied Kashmir and has called for their immediate and unconditional release. A Foreign Office spokesman briefing newsmen in Islamabad said Pakistan has always condemned the acts of terrorism regardless of their motivation. He said consistent with our policy, the Government of Pakistan strongly urges that the British nationals should be released forthwith without any conditions. The spokesman also urged India to end its repression of Kashmiri people and called for the release of detained Kashmiri leaders, freedom fighters and journalists for expressing true aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The British nationals Kim Housego and David Mackie were kidnapped from the held-Kashmir on Tuesday by a group which has demanded release three of its comrades in exchange.

Replying to a question about the involvement of Pakistanis or members of some Pakistan-based organizations in the incident, the spokesman said we have no information which would corroborate or confirm this report. He said there are also rumors in New Delhi that the incident has, in fact, been organized by the Government of India or some of its agencies.

Replying to another question regarding the test of medium range surface-to-surface Prithvi missile by India, the spokesman said it is a clear rebuff of U.S. position and approaches which it had been trying to promote in South Asia. He said, however, U.S. reaction to Prithvi missile has been tepid. He said the United States had approached Pakistan and India last year offering a proposal of South Asia missile nonproliferation regime. He said Pakistan had responded positively to this proposal and suggested the concept of zero missile zone in South Asia. However, Indian reaction was inconclusive. The spokesman said we believe in equity and nondiscrimination on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia and will not accept any unilateral approach that threatens the security of Pakistan.

Bhutto on Threat From 'Inimical' Neighbor

BK0806160194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has appealed to the religious scholars and believers in different schools of thought to maintain utmost discipline and caution and foil the nefarious designs of inimical forces by observing Muharramul Haram [holy month of Muharram] in a peaceful and orderly manner.

She was addressing the 14th annual Hussainia Conference in Islambad today. The prime minister said the government has undeniable proof of a conspiracy hatched by an inimical neighboring country to inject or hire citizens or some saboteurs so as to create law and order problems by airing harsh sectarian feelings [sentence as heard]. The government is alive and alert to its duties and would take firm measures to maintaining smooth law and order. She said the chief ministers of the provinces have already been directed to adopt stringent steps in this regard. In its bid to cow down Pakistan to desist from venting a principled moral and diplomatic support to the consensus Kashmir cause [as heard], the neighboring country has hatched conspiracies one after the other to create internal problems for Pakistan. The prime minister said with the help and support of the people and by making use of all machinery at its command the government would frustrate such nefarious designs.

Sharif Criticizes Economic, Defense Spending

BK1006100694 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 10 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Leader of the opposition, Mian Nawaz Sharif has said that the budget presented by the Benazir government has put the poor people in a fix. At the same time he criticised the government for nominal increase in the defence budget.

"Indians are building missiles and our government is oblivious of the country's defence needs", he said while commenting on the federal budget Thursday in his chamber. He said he would make a substantive comment on the budget in his speech in the National Assembly. "However my initial impression is that the budget has broken the back of poor people." he said.

He said he did not find a single word for the poor in the finance minister's budget speech. He said that increase in the gas prices would result in increase of prices of every commodity.

About the 35 per cent increase in the salary of government servants, he said that it was good. But added that what would happen to the ordinary labourer and to the people who were not government servants. He said government had proposed no programme for their well-being.

Nawaz Sharif lamented that the new budget offered no relief to the poor. He said that after going through the budget, his initial reaction was that the government had no economic agenda of its own. "They are carrying on the policies of my government", he said.

He said there was no substantive increase in the defence budget despite the fact that Indian missile programme posed a serious threat to country's security, demanding more vigilance and military hardware for defence.

He said unfortunately Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in her speech to the nation Wednesday said that the armed forces had agreed to the proposal of no increase in the defence budget. He said that the government should have voluntarily increased the defence budget. "Our armed forces are not of such character that they would come to Benazir Bhutto and would bet for increase in the defence budget". He lamented that the government was oblivious to the defence needs of the country. He said that the prime minister should have realised the need for increase in the defence budget.

He said that he would make a substantive comment on the budget in his forthcoming speech.

However, the secretary general of PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League—Nawaz], Sartaj Aziz said that the budget contained a very heavy dose of taxation. He said that the taxation is of indirect nature, burden of which would be borne by the common people.

APP adds: Sartaj AZiz said that there was no "new initiative" by the government in the budget. He said tax net had been extremely widened that would adversely affect the common man.

He said there had been increase in inflation, the budget deficit had been brought down marginally as compared to last year budget and there was no development programme. He said bulk of the new taxation was on common man. "Never in the history of the country poors were burdened with such a heavy taxation." he added.

Mob Stones Opposition Leader Sharif's Car

BK1606094994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jun 94

[Text] Opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has again alleged that the [word indistinct] Razi Farm, which President Farooq Ahmad Khan had sold to six residents of Karachi, is on barren land. He was addressing a rally near Choti Zerin in Dera Ghazi Khan yesterday. He was accompanied by several leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League and local and foreign journalists.

APP reports that the opposition leader's car was pelted with stones when he and and his procession reached Muzaffargarh. Police used tear gas to disperse the mob and control the situation. Black banners were put up at several places in Jampur town, on which was written: Do not turn the sale of personal property into a political issue.

The news agency reports that officials of the Revenue Department present at the venue provided all the necessary information to Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the journalists accompanying him. They told newsmen that the land which the president has sold is a fertile and expensive agricultural farm called Razi Farm. Officials and people who gathered at the venue also explained that it is cultivable land; and wheat, cotton, and sugar cane are harvested in spring and fall every year. They said that the sale of the land to six residents of Karachi is legal and no forgery has been committed in this regard.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Makes New Peace Offer, Drops Precondition

BK1506154094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1407 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Colombo, June 15 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas have dropped their key demand for a ceasefire and offered to resume talks aimed at ending the island's ethnic bloodshed, a Tamil tiger spokeman said Wednesday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) spokesman in the northern Jaffna peninsula, said the group was willing to open political dialogue with the President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga's government without pre-conditions.

Quoted by a BBC correspondent who travelled to the isolated area, LTTE idealogue Anton Balasingam said the group no longer insisted on a ceasefire and the lifting of an economic embargo on their Jaffna stronghold as a prerequisite to opening talks.

Balasingam called for a political initiative from the Colombo government, but at the same time accused it of preparing for war in the north of the country, where the Tigers run a parallel administration.

In February last year, the LTTE offered to compromise on its main demand for a seperate state called Eelam, and said it was willing to accept a federal constitution that would give minority Tamils greater autonomy.

However, the government remained skeptical and described the LTTE overtures as a ploy to head off a

military onslaught against the rebels who have waged a protracted guerrilla campaign since 1972.

Government security forces in the LTTE-dominated north are confined to a handful of heavily defended military camps while the administration is carried out through civil servants of the minority Tamil community.

Fourteen months of direct talks between the LTTE and Colombo collapsed in June 1990, leading to a revenewed round of bloodletting that continues to add to the daily death toll in the island's northern and eastern regions.

The government for its part has insisted LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran must be directly involved in any future negotiations and that the Tigers must declare their "intent" to lay down arms and recognise other Tamil groups.

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